WORLD / A26

Democratic Party surges in popularity as the congressional sex scandal heats up, says survey

METRO / A23

In an emergency, call 168, Makati's own version of the US 911, a P30-M facility called the city's Command Control and Communication Center or C3

WORLD / A26

13-year-old Amish girl asked to be shot first hoping the younger ones would be let go, according to survivors of the school shooting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where 5 students were killed last Monday

Dayanara is medical tourism's poster girl

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORMER MISS UNIVERSE Dayanara Torres returns to the Philippines as the face of Beverly Hills ETSS. It's not another TV soap. It's a new surgical center specializing in plastic surgery in

DAYANARA / A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, October 8, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 282 P18
newsinfo.inq7.net

'Don't let them take No. 9 away from me'

By Norman Bordadora in Manila and Vincent Cabreza Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE NINTH PLACER OF THE TOP 10 PASSERS in the talented nursing licensure examination yesterday balked at the planned rebate, saying the pressure would be too much to endure.

Speaking at the weekly Kapihan sa Balitaan

DON'T / A10

'Leak was everywhere'

Reports also received from Davao, Tacloban

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A NURSING BOARD REviewer from Davao City yesterday corroborated reports that cheating in the June nursing licensure examination (NLE) had occurred nationwide.

Daryl Joel "Butch" Dumdum, a registered nurse and former nursing professor, said he had received information that test questions were also leaked in the cities of Davao and Tacloban.

"The leakage is everywhere. It's simple logic because the review centers in Lanao have branches in the Visayas and Mindanao," he said.

Dumdum, now a freelance national reviewer for the NLE after quitting a teaching job at a college in Davao, said a certain review center with branches in the city and other parts of the country offered test questions to a dean of a Davao-based nursing school a day before the NLE was conducted.

"The dean, who is also teaching the subject [of the leaked questions] was offered a leakage by a review center. She refused to take it," Dumdum told the Inquirer by phone.

He said some of his students relayed the information to him a week ago. He said the same review center, which he did not yet want to identify, could have also given the questions to its examinees in other areas.

He also said he learned yesterday from "an ally in Tacloban" of a leakage in that city.

Dumdum said he was convinced that the leak in the NLE had occurred not only Manila, Baguio and Davao but also other parts of Mindanao and the Visayas, as disclosed on Friday by Rene Luis Tuffe, president of the faculty association of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Nursing.

Dumdum said that he was willing to help investigators, and that he was also in touch with fellow reviewers in the Visayas.

"I will disclose the information I have [to the National Bureau of Investigation]," he said.

Dumdum said he came forward to support the effort to restore the integrity of the nursing profession.

"And the only way to do that is to have a retake of the entire examinees. The far-reaching effect of a no-retake [stance] is unemployment and

LEAK / A21

WHAT'S INSIDE

Don't do Edsa today as major repairs are being rushed on portions of its southbound lane for traffic to return to normal by Monday — clogged

METRO / A24

Tickled pink: Shop for pricey Marc Jacobs and Vera Wang wear (plus other designer labels), home decor from Pottery Barn, for export-only accessories at a fraction of their usual prices at the first-ever bazaar put up by cancer survivors as a fund-rainer for Cancer Awareness Month. At The Loft, Rockwell, Oct. 14-15

LIFESTYLE / C1

Coop cashes in on low-salt, salt-less, boneless dried fish (tiger-toothed croaker) pioneered and processed in Camarines Sur

SUNDAY BIZ / B3

Strawberry fields at the Benguet State University are ready for the picking for your Christmas holiday table. And they're not the usual. They're organic and of the Sweet Charlie type first grown in Argentina and abundant today in Florida.

SUNDAY BIZ / B4

RIVER WITHOUT A NAME that meanders through the towns of Tayray and Cainta, Rizal, has been adopted by the Little Farm House, an elementary and high school, which is on a campaign to sustain it as a habitat for over 50 species of birds, butterflies, frogs.

SAVING A RIVER

Unnamed river an uncharted beauty

By Volt Contreras

ONE MEETUP ON THE SLIPPERY BANKS of "Tungtong" River were 10-year-old Zach falling flat on his behind. The Grade 4 student got up—he was OK—laughing at his own clumsiness and feeling his soggy bottom, as he became only the latest child last Friday to discover the river's hidden wonders and mischief.

This tributary of the Pasig River, which snakes through the towns of Tayray and Cainta, Rizal, has largely retained its pristine condition yet remains nameless on official maps. "Tungtong" was coined by residents to refer to the river.

But thanks to a local school steeped in environmentalism, Tungtong—said to be home to over 50 species of birds, insects and frogs—will be forever etched in the hearts of Zach, his schoolmates and, hopefully, everyone in their community.

The Holistic Education and Development Center at the Little Farm House, an elementary and high school campus in-

UNNAMED / A8

'I FELT SICK TO MY STOMACH'

Fil-Am Navy medic tells court of cold-blooded killing in Iraq

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA—A US Navy Fil-Am medic told a military court Friday how seven Marines dragged an Iraqi civilian from his home and shot him in cold blood before covering up the brutal slaying.

In dramatic testimony at the US Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, in southern California, Melson Bacos said he had watched in horror as 52-year-old Hashim Ibrahim Awad was bound and gagged before being gunned down.

Bacos, a Purple Heart recipient who is the son of immigrants from the Philippines and who was jailed for a year after a plea deal that saw him admit to kidnapping but cleared of murder, said the killing had arisen out of frustration at the repeated release of a "known terrorist."

The April 26 killing in Hamdania is one of a series of incidents that has tarnished the reputation of American troops in Iraq.

Bacos said that during a patrol to look for roadside bombs, squad leader Lawrence Hawkins plotted to go to the suspected insurgent's house to "get him." If the plan failed, the

FIL-AM / A2

DAMNING TESTIMONY Melson J. Bacos, US Navy

Where are they now? Poll computers just lie there

1,991 AUTOMATED counting machines worth P1.3B are stored on the 6th floor of the Comelec warehouse on UN Avenue, Ermita. Storage costs taxpayers P1.9M yearly.

By Jerome Aning

THEY JUST LIE THERE IN THE DARK.

On the fourth floor of the Commission on Elections' warehouse along United Nations Avenue in Manila, 1,991 steel boxes containing P1.3-billion worth of automated counting machines are stored. The poll body spends P1.9 million a year to keep them there.

The ACMs, which were delivered to batches in late 2003, had been ordered returned to their supplier, MegaPacific Consortium, after the Supreme Court nullified in January 2004 the automation contract that the firm signed with the Comelec.

The consortium, however, was dissolved and its members have been contesting before the courts the efforts of the government to recover the money paid for the machines.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and several individuals, such as lawyers Romulo Macalintal, have been pleading that the machines be used in elections but the high tribunal has stood firm in its ruling.

Abalos said he was considering having the ACMs dismantled for spare parts if MegaPacific still refused to take them back.

"The ACMs are in good condition.

PHOTOS A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1995

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Turn to your feedback inquirer.net or e-mail sgalang@info.inquirer.net (Globe) or 181 (Smart)

OneVoice shows evidence of fraud

By Tina Santos

THE ONEVOICE CITIZENS' GROUP YESTERDAY said it had enough evidence to prove that the gathering of signatures for the people's initiative to change the Constitution undertaken by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines was marked by fraud.

Cecilia Medina, chief legal officer for OneVoice, said the evidence showed fraud and discrepancies in the collection and verification of signatures in support of the people's initiative.

These included a verification report certified by a notary casual clerk and barangay official; municipal mayors submitting collated signatures; double-counting of sets of signatures, and statements from election registrars admitting that many signatures had been fabricated or that no verification took place.

"This is in violation of the law that says the signatures have to be certified by an election officer and not anybody else," Medina said.

OneVoice and other groups opposed to the people's initiative campaign had said yesterday to examine the documents at the Commission on Elections that were submitted by Sigaw and Ulap to support their people's initiative petition calling for amendments to the Constitution to change the form of government to a unicameral parliamentary system.

The groups have to prove to the Supreme Court enough evidence to prove their allegations of fraud.

"This is our fourth and last day, we were given only so much time within which to look at the records. Had we been given more time, we would surely discover more proofs of fraud and discrepancies. But we cannot possibly look at all of them within the time that we were given," Medina said.

Rene Cheu, he said, the "conclusion is so clear—the whole procedure is tainted."

"By Oct. 11 we should file our memorandum with the Supreme Court arguing that there was no 3 percent compliance," Medina said.

The Commission requires that a people's initiative to change the Constitution must carry certified signatures of 12 percent of the country's registered voters and 3 percent of those in every legislative district.

The Inquirer also shows a certification from an election officer in Davao del Sur who had noted that "most signatures are fabricated" in his report of the verification of 2,627 signatures from 21 barangays.

Medina also produced a certification from a casual clerk at the Office of the Election Registrar in Bataan, who said she had certified and verified that signatures of the registered voters on behalf of the registrar, who was on sick leave.

He also showed a verification report submitted by the election officer of Jaro, Iloilo, for barangay Buenavista, where about 50 signatures were verified. The same sheet was photocopied and the signatures were counted twice, the lawyer said.

"Another one claimed that when they had verified seven names, just signatures. What is required is you verify the signatures," he said.

"Some election officers even admitted that they were not expert in verifying signatures," Medina said.

THE VERIFICATION report of a Davao del Sur election registrar revealing that "most signatures are fabricated" is one of the pieces of evidence OneVoice says proves fraud was committed in the signature campaign for the people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

Solons sure Ombudsman won't be impeached

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE the numbers, top House leaders yesterday declared that an opposition group's plan to file an impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez was doomed to fail.

Administration Representative Marcelino Libanan and Pangasinan Jesús dated the Black and White Movement, led by former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, to go ahead and file an impeachment complaint against Gutierrez as it "would suffer a double rebuke" in a joint session.

Congress earlier this year junked an opposition impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We won't block their impeachment bid knowing it is doomed to fail just like their impeachment bid against the President. We could even wrap up our session's decision as a Christmas or New Year's gift to them," Libanan said.

Jesús noted that even though an opposition lawmaker has vowed to endorse the complaint, this was no guarantee of success as they did not have the support of the majority.

Singer Lesh Navarro, a member of the Black and White Movement, said the group was considering filing a complaint against Gutierrez for "betrayal of the public trust" after the Ombudsman cleared Commission on Elections officials of any wrongdoing in the P1.3-billion poll automation deal that the Supreme Court had voided in 2004 for being against the law.

Libanan said it was the opposition group's "bias" against the Arroyo administration that was driving its desire to impeach Gutierrez.

"Anyone who plans to file an impeachment complaint should be guided by prudence in order to prevent a subsequent complaint against the subject based on facts," said Libanan, who chairs the House committee on justice.

He said the Black and White members should "not let their emotions cloud their judgment because it would be a pity for Filipinos waste their time again."

Jesús said the impeachment bid against Gutierrez was doomed to fail "for lack of merit" and because of the hectic schedule of the House which is in the midst of debates on the budget and Charter change.

"We have our hands full with our budget and (his) priorities as they shouldn't waste our time; others," said Jesús, the chair of the committee on constitutional amendments.

"But we will not stop Black and White from filing its complaint. Let it experience an embarrassing defeat again," he said.

"Gusto ko ng kabalikat sa pagharap sa mga pagsubok ng aking pamilya."

Yes ma'am, maaasahan niyo ang

Globe at **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration**

Ang kabalikat ng pamilyang Pinoy

Linggu-linggo, tatalakayin ng iyong kabalikat, si Miss Sharon Cuneta: *kung paano palalaguin ang relasyon ng mag-asawa, tamang pagpapalaki ng mga bata, pagba-budget, kalusugan, kabuhayan at iba pang isyu.*

TV:	RADIO:	DIYARYO:
Kabalikat on Sharon 8:45 n.g. ABS-CBN, kuwing Linggo.	Kabalikat sa Dos Por Dos DZMM, 5:30 n.h., tuwing Lunes, Miyerkules at Byernes. Makibahagi sa mga usapan. I-text ang inyong tanong o opinion sa DZMM React (ang inyong tanong) sa 2366.	Kabalikat sa Balita Tuwing Lunes, Miyerkules at Byernes.

Kabalikat mo para maabot ang mahal mo.
Super sulit talaga ang Globe rates. Tawag na!

OFFER	INSTRUCTIONS
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

Opo ma'am, ang lakas mo sa **Globe**

[illegible]

MILF says it will 'separate' members with terrorist ties

By Jeoffrey Maitem and Rambo Z. Zamia
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday admitted some of its members had ties with the fugitive Abu Sayyaf group Jemaah Islamiyah, which has allegedly targeted the Philippines for attack.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the Front was "conducting a separation drive to separate those who have ties with the JI and the Abu Sayyaf."

"There are individuals in our organization who have links with terror groups," Kabalu told the local media by phone. "It started during intermarriages between our troops and those connected to terror organizations in Mindanao."

Kabalu's statement followed revelations by Jemaah Islamiyah leader Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, detained wife of Indonesian terror suspect Dulmatin, that the MILF and the JI had ties with each other.

The military said Dulmatin's wife also told investigators that the JI had targeted the Philippine Senate as well as military groups on disputing the Philippine National Police's claim that it had solved the bishop's murder and that it was not a political killing.

"We don't believe in what the police say," Alfonso Tamayao II, the bishop's driver, said in a phone interview from Cavite where the wake for the bishop was being held.

He said the family did not see a strong basis for the police probers' conclusion that it was robbery after Amanah Teka, said she was not a member of JI but admitted being a courier for the group.

Diplomatic and World have been linked to the October 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, which killed more than 200 people, mostly Australian tourists.

Another JI militant falls

The war on terror appeared to have gained further ground when a JI member and have been involved in the Wisconsin's Day bombing in General Santos City last year was arrested in Indonesia.

Chief Supt. Gorman Dofa, Central Mindanao police chief, said he was informed by his counterpart in Indonesia about the arrest of Elmer Ferrer, alias Ismael, in Davao Oriental.

"He was arrested four days ago by police authorities in Manado City," Dofa said.

Indon-RP cooperation

Ferrer had been identified as the man who supposedly planted an explosive on a tricycle outside the Gaisano Mall. The blast killed three people and wounded several others.

Police said they were arranging to take custody of Ferrer so he could be tried in the Philippines.

An exchange of information between Indonesian and Philippine intelligence officers led to Ferrer's arrest, Dofa said.

It was not immediately clear whether Ferrer was Filipino or an Indonesian.

'Secret operation'

In Indonesia, unnamed police spokesperson for Col. Benny Bakti confirmed Ferrer was arrested by a special anti-terror unit shortly after landing at Sam Ratulangi airport in Manado.

"That was a secret operation, I cannot give you more details on that," Bakti said.

The General Santos explosion was one of three nearly deadly bombings blasts, dubbed the "Valentine's Day bombings," which killed eight people. The other explosions occurred in a passenger jeepney in Makati City and at a bus terminal in Davao City.

Welcome news

The US government yesterday welcomed news of the arrest of Dulmatin's wife.

"We're encouraged by this," US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lusenhop said. "The Philippines and the US are strong partners in this fight against terrorism."

The wife, Ismyol and JI are on Washington's list of terrorist organizations. With reports from AFP and AP

Solons to probe power spot mart

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Abigail L. Ho

THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL Power Commission will investigate the supposed price manipulation at the electricity spot market allegedly by the state-owned Power Sector Assets Liabilities and Management Corp. (PSALM) which resulted in sudden increases in Luzon power bills.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the Power Con which she chairs will meet on Oct. 12 to look into the trading activities of PSALM last month to notify charges the single biggest player in the wholesale electricity spot market had used its market dominance to push electricity prices up.

The Philippine Electricity Market Corp., which oversees the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), announced on Thursday it was investigating PSALM on suspicion it used its 50-percent control of the country's total power generating capacity to jack up prices.

The still unexplained price spikes during the WESM's third trading month, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 25, prompted the 45-day investigation of PSALM, which was started last Sunday when notice was served on the state-owned firm.

The PEMC said safeguards are in place to prevent price manipulation at the electricity bourse, adding that it should be shut down if found to be a source of "manipulative practices."

"If the WESM becomes a venue for manipulative practices and bad trading, then it should be shut down," said PEMC president Lino Rodriguez-Dantes. "If we're not doing our jobs, then we're not doing the Filipino people any good."

The WESM started its commercial session June 26.

PSALM, the agency tasked to privatize the generation assets of the state-owned Napocor Group, has four teams in the WESM trading 58 percent of the total capacity there.

The capacity it trades comes from Napocor's independent power producers.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the investigation of PSALM was "part of the regular and continuing monitoring and surveillance process by the market operator to ensure transparency and integrity of the conduct of operations in the spot market."

Lotilla said WESM rules provided sufficient safety nets to ensure that there would be no manipulative behavior in the market.

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS KINDERGARTEN, PREPARATORY, GRADES 1-7 AND 1ST - 3RD YRS. FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2007 - 2008.

Early enrollment carries a 5% discount in tuition fee when payment is made on a YEARLY BASIS !! -OFFER IS GOOD UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 2006 ONLY!!

For more information, please call Office of the Registrar at Tel. No. 532-9547 or at Tel. Nos. 533-6367, 533-6310 and 531-8356.

Slain bishop's kin insist cops wrong on motive

By Rentin Drejo
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—THE family of slain Aglipayan Bishop Rolando Dela Cruz said it is military groups are disputing the Philippine National Police's claim that it had solved the bishop's murder and that it was not a political killing.

"We don't believe in what the police say," Alfonso Tamayao II, the bishop's driver, said in a phone interview from Cavite where the wake for the bishop was being held.

He said the family did not see a strong basis for the police probers' conclusion that it was robbery after killed the 69-year-old bishop in the evening of his San Sebastian Parish in Cavite on Oct. 3.

Tamayao said his father was gone and did not see could not have been robbed or killed for the money.

"What would they get out of killing and killing him?" he said.

The family believes it was his mission's life of service to and defense of the poor that made him a target for unnamed killers.

He said the police had not met with the family to present the results of their investigation.

Police had arrested four petty thieves—Michael Vasilo, Michael Quitalig, Reynaldo Perez and Joel Villanueva—in Tarlac.

The police have yet to release a copy of their extrajudicial confession.

Of the suspect, identified as Edwin Ramirez, remains at large.

Archimedes Perez, the bishop's aide, also doubted the police findings and demanded to see the bishop's ring recovered from the suspects.

Even if it was the bishop's ring, Perez said he would still doubt the motive because a priest, who was with Ramirezes on Oct. 2, had told him a man had been calling the bishop.

Leny Abad Luque, information officer of Barangay Iduas ng Cabanatuan City, said the Aglipayan group would ask for the re-opening and reinvestigation of the case.

Tamayao said the investigation should be handled by an independent body the Amnesty International.

He said the PNP was "presidential" itself by "serving as a washing laboratory of the military on political killings."

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the four arrested suspects were "mere ball guys or at most hired assholings."

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

School of Multidisciplinary Studies
NOW ACCEPTING FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

Bachelor of Arts (AB) major in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs

Work in the field of international relations.
Become a Foreign Service Officer or pursue a career in international relations, government, or law.

Other degree programs offered:

School of Design and Arts
School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management
School of Management and Information Technology
School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies

Application period
for Freshmen (SY 2007-2008) is ongoing until Dec. 5, 2006
for Freshmen and Transferees for 3rd Trimester, SY 2006-2007 is from Oct. 9 to Nov. 11, 2006

Testing dates
for Freshmen (SY 2007-2008) Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3 & Dec. 10, 2006
for Freshmen and Transferees (3rd Trimester, SY 2006-2007) Nov. 19, 2006

For application inquiries, contact:
ADMISSIONS CENTER
Tel. Nos.: 526-5440 to 47 loc. 106, 220 & 221
Telefax: 524-8233
Email: admissions@dlsc.edu.ph

Scholarships and financial assistance available
Download application forms at:
www.dlsc.edu.ph/admissions

GUTITO'S NEW HOME
Students of Tagaytay City National High School in Cavite warmly welcome their own Gajits, the Philippine Daily Inquirer mascot, to their campus on Friday. The school was awarded a Gajito painted by renowned Filipino artist Raul Olbinio for being one of the winners in the National Quiz Bee. (Story on Page A20)

RP now open to aid — Gordon

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS yesterday appealed to the international community to help victims of Typhoon "Milenyo" which battered Luzon, saying the damage was more extensive than previously assessed.

Sen. Richard Gordon, PNRC chair, said the Red Cross would need at least 5 million Swiss francs (about P200 million) to help people in affected provinces and municipalities whose homes and crops were destroyed by the strong typhoon and who now faced an uncertain livelihood.

Gordon said three Red Cross teams were now in the Bicol provinces to assess the damage before the humanitarian organization mounted the call for international assistance.

"We wanted to be sure before we asked for international assistance to see new our teams there. They came back and confirmed our worst fears—that the damage was worse than reported earlier," Gordon said.

Gordon said the report was handed to Roger Brooks, a delegate of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies.

"His early Gordon said, aid from three countries had come in. He said French Ambassador Gerald Clement gave P20,000 euro (about P1.5 million) while Australian Aid sent A$25,000 and the equestre from Philip Morris, US$20,000.

The first in help was United States Ambassador Kristie Kenney, who gave $100,000 (P5 million) to the Red Cross.

Citing Bert Gonzales figures, Gordon said that as of yesterday, 334,392 families or more than 1.5 million individuals, had been displaced by the typhoon, about 60,000 homes were destroyed in 177 municipalities and 13 cities in Laguna, Quezon, Bicol, Cavite and the three Bicol provinces.

He said the Red Cross had provided namely 15,000 families with food aid.

"I appeal to every people that while we were in conveniencia Metro Manila because we had no power and water, and traffic got control, the people in Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Quezon, Laguna and Cavite suffered more. Many of them lost their homes and livelihood," Gordon said.

Gordon said the Red Cross has launched Habitat-a-load to raise funds for the victims.

He said kind-hearted Filipino could text 8913 (space) (amount) to 2600, and indicate the donation amount. not exceeding P500 they want to make in our text. Juliet Labog-Javellana

"Gusto ko ng kabalikat sa pag-abot ng aming pangarap."

GRAND PRIZES

Isuzu Crosswind

WEEKLY PRIZES

Posible po sa

Globe at Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

Ang kabalikat ng pamilyang Pinoy

Isang download lang, pwede ka nang manalo!

Para sa mga payo sa tamang pagpapalaki ng mga bata at marami pang iba, samahan sila Dra. Donna Pangilinan-Simpao, Mr. Andy Abella at si Ms. Felichi Pangilinan-Buston

Text KAALAMAN to 4627

Mag-download ng mga job openings, job fairs, at kaluluwan tips

Text KABUHAYAN to 4627

Chika sa with your shets

Text KATUWAAN to 4627

For instructions kung paano mag-download, text **KABALIKAT** to 4627

Download rates

P150/logo, picture message or ringtone na i-download	P20/wallpaper or polyphone na i-download	P2.50/ message/tip na i-download

Opo ma'am, ang lakas mo sa Globe

1. Promo is open to Globe prepaid subscribers and GTM subscribers.
2. Register to Kabalikat to be eligible for the draw. Text KABALIKAT REG, Kabalikat<space>name<space>address to 4627.
3. Globe prepaid subscribers will receive 1 raffle entry. Text KABALIKAT to 4627.
4. Every download costs P2.50 per text (1 raffle entry). Every download costs P15 = 1 raffle entry.
5. Grand prizes: 1 Isuzu Crosswind, 1 Mobile Carwash franchise, 3 STI scholarships.
6. Weekly prizes: 1 Autoload Max unit, 1 WOW! Vacuum Cleaner unit.
7. Promo will run for 10 weeks, starts on 1 June 2009, ends on 10 August 2009.
8. Winners will be announced on the Globe Kabalikat Text Community and on the Globe Kabalikat Facebook page.
9. Globe reserves the right to change or modify any of the mechanics of the promo without prior notice.

Prize Redemption:

1. Winners must be notified via call or text on the winning mobile number and through registered mail.
2. Winners must present the following when claiming their prize: Government-issued ID with subscriber's name and address, 2 valid IDs with clear full address. The name shown on every valid ID must be the same as the name on the registered mail. Winners must present the original registered mail. Winners must present the original registered mail.
3. Winners who cannot claim their prizes within the stipulated time or do not receive any mail shall forfeit their prizes.
4. Subscribers who cannot be reached within the stipulated time or do not receive any mail shall forfeit their prizes.
5. Prizes cannot be converted to cash or any other form of payment.
6. Prizes are subject to withholding tax.
7. Winners must be present during the drawing. Representatives must present a valid ID and authorization letter.
8. Winners will be announced on the Globe Kabalikat Text Community and on the Globe Kabalikat Facebook page.
9. Winners will be announced on the Globe Kabalikat Text Community and on the Globe Kabalikat Facebook page.
10. Winners will be announced on the Globe Kabalikat Text Community and on the Globe Kabalikat Facebook page.

For more information, call Globe Kabalikat Customer Service at (02) 8730-4627 or (02) 730-4627.

Globe Telecom, Inc. and its affiliates and subsidiaries.

RP should let UN observers in, says int'l rights group

By Norman Bordadora

THE NEW YORK-BASED HUMAN Rights Watch has cited the Philippines, along with such countries as North Korea and Burma, for its failure to cooperate with United Nations special rapporteurs tasked to look into the country's human rights situation.

HRW said North Korea and Burma, both dictatorial regimes, had never allowed entry to the 109 experts assigned to look into their respective human rights situations. But particular attention has been drawn to the Philippines, which has yet to respond to five pending requests for invitation, because of its membership in the UN Human Rights Council, presently in session in Geneva.

"The members of the council must lead by example. All council members should issue a standing invitation to any expert appointed by the council to visit, without restrictions," HRW global advocacy director Peggy Hicks said in a statement.

"Dialogue is good, but governments must match their words with actions," Hicks said. "States, and particularly members of the council, must give the council's experts full access so that they can do their jobs, and take prompt action to implement their recommendations."

HRW said records at the UN High Commission for Human Rights showed that more than 80 states had outstanding requests for visits by the council's independent experts. Fifty-five countries had extended invitations to the council's thematic experts as of July.

The Philippines, however, was one of only seven countries with as many as five requests for invitation from the UN independent experts. The others were Ethiopia, India, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

Experts appointed in 2005 for Burma and in 2004 for North Korea had never been allowed access to the countries they had been assigned to monitor, the HRW said.

"But the problem extends well beyond such notorious human rights abusers. Newly additional states—Malaysia, India, the Philippines, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe—have failed to cooperate with at least five experts," it added.

The Philippines has pending requests for invitation from the UN special rapporteurs on human rights defenders, extrajudicial killings, freedom of expression and the right to food, as well as the UN working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncements during her recent trip to Europe, the Philippine mission to the United Nations in Geneva has yet to act on these five requests.

"In the face of the weakened or nonexistent commitment of the Philippine government to the UNHRC sessions in Geneva.

Ofalia was with the delegation that also included Marie Hilao-Enriquez of the human rights group Karapatan, Danilo Ramos of the peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Eva Nieto of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development.

"The Philippine government's continued refusal to allow itself to be investigated by independent and credible bodies like the UN special rapporteurs only proves the foreign government's deception and duplicity in handling the disturbing cases of human rights violations," Bonoan said.

Militants hit military 'tail'

By Jerome Aning

THE MILITANT BUTHANG Magic Utas yesterday denounced the Armed Forces of the Philippines for allegedly placing under surveillance a Quezon City-based law office providing legal services to labor unions and workers.

Security guards at Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City arrested an Army intelligence agent on Friday. The soldier was seen taking off-cuts of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) offices, after they left the Pro-Legal Assistance Center (Place) in Cubao, Quezon City.

Pfc. Rommel Felipe Santiago was brought to the city police for investigation. He was later released after the Army Inspector General confirmed he was an official asset.

"When did the military need to spy on a labor union? Isn't that the job of the Labor Department? This constitutes big by the Army is definitely beyond labor management relations," said KMU national chair Elmer Labog.

Labog said the lesson that even labor lawyers were no longer spared from the harassment and intimidation that was the lot of workers. He said the lawsuits being handled by Place were all labor-related, including illegal dismissals, strikes, violations of labor laws and unfair labor practices.

"While big companies are able to hire big-shot lawyers, workers who are already hard-pressed in finding money to feed their families find it even more difficult to hire lawyers to assist them in their legal cases. Place tries to help workers by providing legal services, but even this could prevent to now under threat," Labog said.

According to the police report, Santiago said he and a companion were searching the law office but the talking of the union officials was a case of "mistaken identity."

According to MSGT. Jose Jun Cruz, he and the other union officials had been to a hearing at the National Labor Relations Commission, after which they went to the Place office to consult with their lawyers.

On leaving Place at about 11:30 a.m., they noticed that they were being followed by two men on a yellow motorcycle. They were followed all the way to the PTI complex in Taguig, they said.

Barangays ordered to see to rights plaints

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALdo Puno has called on local government units to revitalize their barangay human rights action centers (BHRAC) in line with the intensified government effort to empower ordinary Filipinos or the grassroots level to vigilantly defend their constitutional rights.

Puno issued the directive after finding out from the Commission on Human Rights that out of 7,279 BHRACs established since 2001, only 2,341 or about a third were functioning.

"These centers serve to process complaints and dissensions or humanrights violations committed, especially in the Bong areas in the countryside," Puno said.

Puno, through Undersecretary for Local Government Marcelino Sedurifa, issued Memorandum Circular No. 2006-138 to all local officials and field regional directors, reminding them to give top priority to the BHRAC program of the CHR.

He also directed DILG and local officials to review their respective human rights action plans for inclusion in their annual budget proposals.

In his memorandum, Puno also encouraged nongovernment barangays nationwide to either establish or revitalize their respective BHRACs.

Puno reminded local government executives of the role they played in ensuring the success of the BHRAC program which is aimed at increasing public awareness of human rights issues at the grassroots level.

He also supported the proposed integration of a human rights advocacy course in the training program for Philippine National Police personnel in line with the department's thrust of fostering a new culture that values and respects human rights in the barangays.

He said this recommendation was among the outputs of the first of a series of meetings conducted in eight areas grouped to formed to craft a strategic paper on human rights concerns.

The group is composed of representatives from the Department of Interior and Local Government, PNP, Commission on Human Rights, and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

"Among the proposals during these meetings was for the PNP to include a human rights advocacy course in the training program for the personnel," Puno said.

"We fully welcome this recommendation even as the DILG remains committed to ensuring that the human rights of our policemen are also protected," he said. Norman Bordadora

Esperat convictions lauded

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERAtion of Journalists (IFJ) said it was heartened by the convictions on Friday of three persons charged with the murder of journalist Marlene Garcia-Esperat.

Esperat, a columnist for the Midland Review in Mindanao, was murdered on March 24, 2005, in her own home in Tacurong City after she reported largely uncovered and wrote on multimillion-peso anomalies in the Department of Agriculture.

Cebu Regional Trial Court Judge Eric Menchaves sentenced gunman Amry Lubaguit to reclusion perpetua. Lubaguit's co-accused Nandy Cerera and Rolando Bermoso to 40 years in prison each for the murder of Esperat.

The three were also ordered to indemnify Esperat's heirs in the amount of P175,000 for civil, moral and exemplary damages.

"This is a rare win in the battle for justice for the unrelenting numbers of journalists brutally murdered in the Philippines," said IFJ president Christopher Warne.

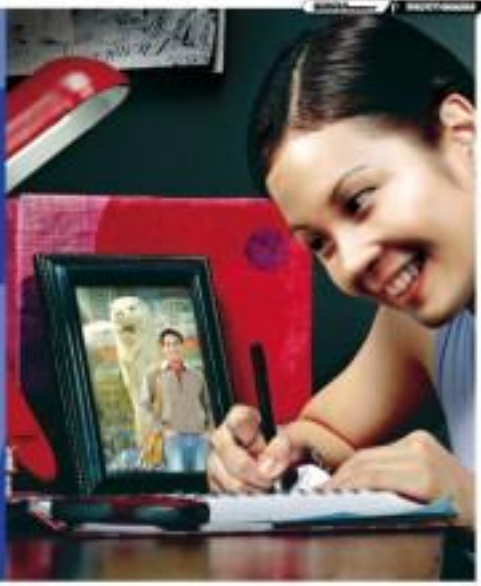
CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, BEING THE MOST-READ PAPER DOESN'T MAKE US SPECIAL.

It makes us quite common.

INQUIRER

Sabi ng friends ko, nakaka-inspire daw ang story namin.

"Gusto ko ng kabalikat na magbabalita nito sa iba."



Camella House and Lot para sa mananalo!

Posible po sa

Model OFW Family of the Year

Isang gabi ng parangal mula sa

Globe at Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

Ang kabalikat ng pamilyang Pinoy

Sipag, dedikasyon at pagkamasinop – yan ang mga katangiang hinahanap sa Model OFW Family of the Year.

Tatlong pamilya ang mananalo – isa mula sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao. Para magnekstro o magnungkahi ng ibang pamilya, lumapit sa lokal na NGO, religious group o socio-civic organization.

Qualifications:

- Naging OFW nang hindi kukulang sa apat (4) na taon ang tumatayong pinuno ng pamilya
- Naging matuling nakinabang ang pamilya sa pamayanan
- Nakapagtapos ng kolehiyo ang isa o higit pang anak o kapatid
- Maayos na naaasikaso ang remittance at nakapag-ipon ang pamilya
- Naging matiwasay ang pamumuhay ng pamilya dahil nakapagpalago ng salapi sa investments o nakapagpundar ng isang negosyo mula sa kita sa ibang bansa.

Last day for nominations: October 25, 2006. For more information, call OWWA Operations Center: (02) 5511580, 8336992 or contact your nearest OWWA Regional Welfare Office.

Globe Kababayan

Sabihan niyo na ang inyong mga kamag-anak sa abroad – na dahil sa Globe Kababayan, pwede nang tumawag sa Pilipinas sa mas mababang halaga, at pwede na ring mag-send ng load at remittance direkto sa inyong Globe o TM phones.

For more information, punta na sa www.globekababayan.com.ph

Opo ma'am, ang lakas mo sa Globe

JUNGLE GYM Children play on a makeshift jungle gym at the Little Farm House school. It launched a "fun run" to raise money to clean the river where students delight in its cool environs and an abundance of nature's creatures. The river, a 15-km tributary of the Pasig River, is only 10 minutes away from the school. STORY ON PAGE A7 / EDWIN BACASMAS

Unnamed river an uncharted beauty

From page A1

side Beverly Hills subdivision, Barangay Bulacan in Taytay, launched a campaign last Friday to protect this secretive ecosystem.

A fund-raising "fun run" around the village, which drew the participation of over 200 students and parents, raised some P25,000 in seed money to be used for the river's much-needed cleanup. The campaign also included appeals to local government and property owners to prevent Tanguigui from urban pollution.

"I've looked at the latest maps from Sunvia and Tanguigui is not even named there," said Henry Cuibling, 52, the Sunvia main science science weather and leader of the campaign. Chanvia stands for the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, an armed agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.)

Cuibling had searched the most detailed maps he could find and came to this conclusion. "I suspect that Tanguigui was this nice blue line branching out of the main River—but don't tell."

The topographical Sunvia maps he consulted were bought in 2003 but studied dates during back to the '80s, he added.

Hands-on lab

Through a more modern tool—aerial file images accessible through http://earth.google.com—Cuibling said he was able to approximate the length of this otherwise unresponsive to be about 10 kilometers.

Early residents probably called it Tanguigui (which literally means "to step on") because the river was shallow enough for a person to safely wade in even during the rainy season, he explained. The flow would narrow to a thin stream at the peak of summers but is never dried out.

The water was only about knee deep last Friday when "Teacher Henry" gave some of his students a tour of the river, which he described as a "hands-on laboratory" especially for his high school science class.

Only about 400 meters of the river runs through the Beverly Hills subdivision, but its banks are just about a 10-minute walk from the campus.

Within the short stretch that passes through the village is Tanguigui's most spectacular portion: A 15-foot waterfall or "talon," a delight for toddlers who know just where to look.

Birds, butterflies, frogs

A BS Biology graduate from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, Cuibling sought help from a college buddy to document the various species that have managed to thrive in Tanguigui, despite the growing threat of pollution.

The study, completed in 2003 by former UP Biology student Jose Clemente Jose Mendoza, found that up to "89 species of birds" had either taken up residency there or had found it suitable for seasonal visits.

Cuibling's own students have recorded sightings of at least five species of butterflies and five species of frogs.

The profile of Tanguigui's fauna was presented to garner him second-runner-up competition during the 13th Annual Philippine Terrestrial Biodiversity Symposium, held by the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines in April 2004.

That paper won the grand prize—and further inspired the Little Farm community to do something more for their river aside from just throwing it to them.

Highlight of Science Week

Last Friday's marathon served as the highlight of the school's yearly Science Week and raised initial funds which, Cuibling said, would go to clearing the river of trash and the planting of more trees to beautify its banks against erosion in the next two to three years.

Where quality would also be monitored scientifically, he said, adding that the school was currently negotiating with WWF-Philippines (Gabung Kalikasan ng Pilipinas) for technical supervision.

Right now, the river's water quality appears still has enough dissolved oxygen for fish (mostly gaupami), crabs and shrimp to live, according to Cuibling. Mention Ricardo Buyucsok) still lurk in the heavy foliage.

In 2002, a python believed to have come from the river slithered into the school compound.

But to keep Tanguigui that way, Cuibling and his fellow advocates at Little Farm would have to overcome tremendous odds.

This is because part of their campaign will involve "community development," or convincing the very people who live by the river to be its own protectors, not abusers.

For this to succeed, Cuibling said, residents...not scientific experts—would play a crucial role.

Not a trash can

The local homeowners [at Beverly Hills] support our project. Hopefully we can reach the other [neighboring] barangay and make the residents realize that one doesn't use up a river until it dies, that a river is not one big trash can," Cuibling said.

"We may not be able to stop future construction, but we can appeal to future homeowners and developers that it's for their own benefit if the river doesn't turn into a hostile hazard," he added.

In the same week previous shoot, there are 35 to 40 houses constructed along the banks, almost half of them informal settlers.

Most serious threat

But the most serious threat comes from residents who trash their dishes in the river or use it as dispose of their garbage.

Zach Sarcedi, the boy who slipped on Tanguigui's banks last Friday, encountered patches of washed-up garbage along the way and was disgusted with what he saw. Only later, washing a few more yards past the trail of trash did the playful mood return at the sight of the river, breathtaking "talon."

Teacher Henry smiled, because the day's lesson had begun.

Dayanara ...

From page A1

Makati City

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor expressed his optimism about Torres' decision to endorse the country's booming medical tourism industry.

"We are encouraged by Miss Torres' decision to endorse a local company and the Philippines as a whole, as a hub of wellness and rejuvenation," Defensor said.

"As an international celebrity, she will help attract interest in the country. I think she has the credibility to pull in the tourists and she has a strong affinity with Filipinos," he added.

Defensor said he would discuss with Tourism Secretary Joseph "Joe" Durano how the government could tap Torres to help promote the Philippines' medical tourism business.

Specialists, celeb owners

Torres has been tapped to be the face of Beverly Hills 6758, a new surgi-center, whose staff boasts of leading specialists from St. Luke's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center and University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

Two of the owners are celebrity couple Gerald Bautista and Jessica Rodrigues, a blended family.

Beverly Hills 6758 medical director Manolo Santos said that as an image model, Torres "provides credibility to the whole business with her wholesome image and professional reputation."

The Puerto Rican model-actress won the Miss Universe title in 1993 when she was only 18. She first came to the Philippines in 1994 when the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila. She won the hearts of many Filipinos and made news here until 1999.

Marc Anthony

Torres was romantically linked to local actor Aga Muhlach, who's now married to Charlene Gonzalez, Miss Philippines-Universe 1994.

Torres was married for four years to Marc Anthony, a Puerto Rican-American singer-songwriter popular for his salsa music. In 2004, less than a month after their divorce was finalized, Anthony married American actress-singer Jennifer Lopez.

Beverly Hills 6758 is an affiliate of the Beverly Hills franchise, a leading medical cosmetic and aesthetic solutions in plastic surgery in southern California.

Torres is expected to arrive in the Philippines for a photo shoot and celebrity interviews on Nov. She will most likely meet with Defensor and the men during her visit.

After fulfilling her commitments to a few TV show in the United States, Torres will return to the Philippines next year and will stay for a longer time to promote the surgical-center second look.

State-of-the-art

Santos said they decided to tap Torres because Beverly Hills 6758 targets tourists from Japan, China and Korea. "By endorsing a local surgical center, Torres would be uplifting the image of the Philippines overseas," he explained.

Aside from getting access to the latest medical breakthroughs in plastic surgery with its international affiliates, Beverly Hills 6758 will have state-of-the-art laser machines and equipment and a respected staff of physicians and dental professionals, he said.

According to Santos, the Philippines has the potential to compete head-on with the region's number-one medical center destination, Thailand, despite the latter's 23-year headstart in the industry.

"Our prices are low and our technology is comparable with the region's best," he said.

Where are they now? Poll computers just lie there

From page A1

They can be taken out and used any time," Comelec education and information director Atty. Esmeralda Amora-Ong said.

The boxes containing the machines are piled atop each other at least 20 feet high. They occupy about half of the topmost floor of the four-story warehouses, which is accessed by a metal staircase. Light comes in through glass-paned windows and from several fluorescent lamps.

Guarded by Marines

Despite the air-conditioning but according to Jimenez, the warehouses is well ventilated or "storage temperature."

Jimenez said two Comelec officials are in charge of the warehouses: Jay Caspio of the Comelec chair's office and Raul Rojas, a detachment of Marines guards the compound 24 hours a day.

The warehouse contains old records and documents from the files of the Comelec's divisions and departments, ballot boxes, as well as spare parts for transmission at the agency, Jimenez said.

Cannibalizing them

"If they can't be used for elections, then perhaps they can be turned into something beneficial," he said in a phone interview. "In the same way that we do with [old] cars, we can dismantle and remove the parts into something else."

Abalos said there were proposals to donate the AES machines and hardware and software.

All depends on high court

"Since we don't own them, Comelec won't be benefiting from the sale," Abalos said. "It's not that many people have been asking to ...

Many residents probably called it Tanguigui (which literally means "to step on") because the river was shallow enough for a person to safely wade in even during the rainy season, he explained. The flow would narrow to a thin stream at the peak of summers but is never dried out.

The water was only about knee deep last Friday when "Teacher Henry" gave some of his students a tour of the river, which he described as a "hands-on laboratory" especially for his high school science class.

Only about 400 meters of the river runs through the Beverly Hills subdivision, but its banks are just about a 10-minute walk from the campus.

Within the short stretch that passes through the village is Tanguigui's most spectacular portion: A 15-foot waterfall or "talon," a delight for toddlers who know just where to look.

Birds, butterflies, frogs

A BS Biology graduate from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, Cuibling sought help from a college buddy to document the various species that have managed to thrive in Tanguigui, despite the growing threat of pollution.

The study, completed in 2003 by former UP Biology student Jose Clemente Jose Mendoza, found that up to "89 species of birds" had either taken up residency there or had found it suitable for seasonal visits.

Cuibling's own students have recorded sightings of at least five species of butterflies and five species of frogs.

The profile of Tanguigui's fauna was presented to garner him second-runner-up competition during the 13th Annual Philippine Terrestrial Biodiversity Symposium, held by the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines in April 2004.

That paper won the grand prize—and further inspired the Little Farm community to do something more for their river aside from just throwing it to them.

Highlight of Science Week

Last Friday's marathon served as the highlight of the school's yearly Science Week and raised initial funds which, Cuibling said, would go to clearing the river of trash and the planting of more trees to beautify its banks against erosion in the next two to three years.

Where quality would also be monitored scientifically, he said, adding that the school was currently negotiating with WWF-Philippines (Gabung Kalikasan ng Pilipinas) for technical supervision.

Right now, the river's water quality appears still has enough dissolved oxygen for fish (mostly gaupami), crabs and shrimp to live, according to Cuibling. Mention Ricardo Buyucsok) still lurk in the heavy foliage.

In 2002, a python believed to have come from the river slithered into the school compound.

But to keep Tanguigui that way, Cuibling and his fellow advocates at Little Farm would have to overcome tremendous odds.

This is because part of their campaign will involve "community development," or convincing the very people who live by the river to be its own protectors, not abusers.

For this to succeed, Cuibling said, residents...not scientific experts—would play a crucial role.

Not a trash can

The local homeowners [at Beverly Hills] support our project. Hopefully we can reach the other [neighboring] barangay and make the residents realize that one doesn't use up a river until it dies, that a river is not one big trash can," Cuibling said.

"We may not be able to stop future construction, but we can appeal to future homeowners and developers that it's for their own benefit if the river doesn't turn into a hostile hazard," he added.

In the same week previous shoot, there are 35 to 40 houses constructed along the banks, almost half of them informal settlers.

Most serious threat

But the most serious threat comes from residents who trash their dishes in the river or use it as dispose of their garbage.

Zach Sarcedi, the boy who slipped on Tanguigui's banks last Friday, encountered patches of washed-up garbage along the way and was disgusted with what he saw. Only later, washing a few more yards past the trail of trash did the playful mood return at the sight of the river, breathtaking "talon."

Teacher Henry smiled, because the day's lesson had begun.

COURT-MARTIAL HEARING Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nelson J. Rasos (center) is escorted by his lawyers arrive for hearing at Camp Pendleton, California, on Friday. Rasos, who was charged with killing an Iraqi civilian in April, testified about the seven Marines' role in the incidence in return for having charges against him dropped. AP

Fil-Am tells court of cold-blooded killing

From page A1

Marines would "find someone else," Rasos said.

After failing to locate their intended target, the Marines raided the house next door, Rasos said. Two Marines pulled Awad outside and took him to a hole that had been dug to look like one used for roadside bombs, he said.

The Marines grabbed a shovel lying outside another house, then went inside and grabbed an AK-47 assault rifle, Rasos said.

He said Hutchins ordered the Marines to fire AK-47 rounds into the hole "to make it look like we were in a firefight with this man."

'Sick to my stomach'

Hutchins fired the first few shots, then other Marines fired rounds, Rasos said. Another soldier, Lance Corporal Stephen Pennington, urged the gunmen off the assault rifle, he said.

The Marines then forced the hands and feet of Awad and gagged him before firing three shots into his head, Rasos said. Hutchins then radioed headquarters and reported that his squad had killed a man in a firefight.

Rasos said he felt "sick to my stomach" following the killings and said he had wanted to intervene.

"I tried to stop others from killing," Rasos said. "I wanted to be part of the team. Now I have to live with this for the rest of my life. I feel like my honor is gone. I apologize to my country."

Rasos, who has been removed from custody at Camp Pendleton for his own safety, was later jailed for a year after earlier being told he could face a life sentence for his role in the killing.

Hutchins' defense lawyer, Lt. Commander Stephen Reyes, argued that the prosecution's case was based on "hearsay" and "speculation" and that Rasos had changed his story to avoid a murder charge.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gannon argued that Hutchins should be given no less than 30 to 35 years behind bars and a dishonorable discharge, describing his actions as "no less than murder."

"They were matched this man, on a walk of death, almost a ritualized manner," Gannon told the court. "Hutchins followed behind, murdering this dead human."

Defense lawyers said that with time in custody already served, their client could be freed by the end of the year.

3 plead not guilty

Two of the seven Marines involved in the case, John Jodka and Stephen Maglaya of Lancaster, have not guilty to murder on Wednesday.

Jodka, a 20-year-old private, will stand trial on March 5, following the completion of Maglaya's court-martial, which gets under way on Feb. 1.

Marine commander Gen. John Sattler has already said the death penalty will not be sought for the two soldiers.

Five other Marines involved are yet to stand trial. AFP

"Mula ngayon, may kabalikat na ang pamilyang Pinoy."

Salamat sa samahang

Globe

at

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

Kabalikat sa Kaalaman.

Tamang pagpapalaki ng mga bata, pagba-budget, kalusugan at iba pang isyu – tatalakayin linggu-linggo ng inyong kabalikat, si Miss Sharon Cuneta.

Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan at Katuwaan.

Isuzu Crosswind, Mobile Carwash Franchise, STI Scholarship at AMAX Dealerships o kaya WOW! Magic Sing, pwedeng mapanalunan.

Kabalikat sa Tagumpay.

Maari pa kayong manalo ng Camella House and Lot kapag kayo ay nahirang na Model OFW Family of the Year.

Lahat ito ma'am, dahil ang lakas mo sa Globe

OUTSTANDING UE ALUMNI
Vice President Noli de Castro poses with the six prominent dentists who were chosen among the 40 outstanding alumni of the University of the East during the awards night in connection with the university's Diamond Jubilee celebration at the UE campus in Manila recently. They are (from left) Louis F. Orosa (cum laude 1960, board third placer), past chair of the Board of Dentistry, Professional Regulation Commission; Lorenzo T. Bocaya (cum laude 1968, board second placer), current chair, PRC; Dr. Castro, himself one of the 40 outstanding UE alumni; Olympio J. Lim, (magna cum laude 1960), past president, Asia-Pacific Dental Federation and long-time dean of the UE College of Dentistry; Jesus D. Tumaneng (1974), past president, Philippine Dental Association and the Asia Pacific Dental Federation; Hermogenes P. Villaruel (1974), president, International College of Dentists-Philippine Section and chair of the department of dental medicine, Asian Hospital; and Antonio A. Ballatorar (1982), former Cebu andcanon vice president, former vice mayor, Puerto, Laguna, and past chair Board of Dentistry, PRC.

DSWD, BSP eye ATMs for the blind

SHOULD THE DSWD AND OTHER persons with disabilities be allowed to have bank accounts? If so, how can they protect their accounts or even access them through the automatic teller machines?

These and other issues are now being tackled by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in an effort to provide equality for disabled persons in the banking and financial system.

Resolution

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, chair of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) expressed appreciation for the support of the BSP for the full participation and equalization of privileges and opportunities of the visually impaired and other persons with disabilities in the banking and financial system.

On July 27, the NCWDP passed a resolution requesting the Monetary Board of the BSP to direct all banks to accept customers with disabilities as dependents and to explore ways to assist them in accomplishing their banking transactions. The resolution also suggested that bank facilities such as automatic teller machines (ATMs) be customized to suit the needs of disabled persons.

The resolution was passed as a result of the refusal of some commercial banks to allow blind individuals to open accounts with the banks allegedly due to their inability to prove their success.

NCWDP Deputy Executive Director Atty. Ana Lee said 20 blind persons had been registered recently by some commercial banks in Mandaluyong and Manila as clients.

In response, BSP Acting Director Teodoro San Pedro wrote the council recently to say that the BSP has reminded banks to comply with the provisions of RP 344 which provides that buildings should be constructed or modified to conform with prescribed facilities and devices for physically challenged persons.

She said there were difficulties in accommodating blind depositors because banks do not have the systems or the facilities to safeguard their transactions.

She said that while there may not be any deliberate intent to discriminate against the blind, the banks' risk management systems have continued against the possibility of fraud in transactions involving the accounts of the blind and the transactions such that may arise.

Cabral, the DSWD said, has directed the NCWDP staff to meet with the BSP on how to ensure a friendly, just and non-discriminatory environment in the banks for blind people and other persons with disabilities.

UP alumni engineers' homecoming Nov. 6

THE UP ALUMNI ENGINEERS WILL BE CELEbrating its grand alumni homecoming on Nov. 6 at the Manila Polo Club.

The occasion will be marked by the reunion of this year's Jubilarians, composed of the graduates of 1956, 1966, and 1982.

The annual departmental awards in recognition of the valuable contributions of the alumni in their respective fields will also be given.

The ENAE has been transferred in fund-raising activities for the benefit of the college and of the university.

This year marks the 1st ONE College of Engineering raffle draw, which includes as its major prizes a 1600 cc, a Yahley motorcycle, Toyota Altis and Hyundai Getz. Other prizes include computers and cellular phones.

The winning numbers will be drawn on the homecoming night. The proceeds of the raffle draw will be used to maintain several classrooms of Melchor Hall.

Registration starts at 4 p.m. Homecoming tickets cost P1,000 and are available at the gate or from the UPAE office at Room 215, Melchor Hall.

Tacloban gab tackles Visayan historiography

VISAYAN HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE NATIONal perspective is the subject of the Philippine National Historical Society's 27th national conference to be held on Oct. 26-28 at the Leyte Normal University (LNU) in Tacloban City, Leyte.

The keynote address, "Theorizing Local Histories," will be delivered by Dr. Ileto R. Mojares of the University of San Carlos (USC).

Papers will be presented by P Emelio S. Pascual, USC; Bonjoven Bohol, USC; Pablo Arneo-nal III, LNU; Jane N. Lanuza, LNU; Rowena Guiang, University of the Philippines-Tacloban; Daniel C. Tablo, UP Tacloban; Rolando O. Borromeo, UP Edsel of Health Sciences in Palo, Leyte; Hrs. Fortunato B. Rendole, LNU Quinapondan; Ramiro Jaime; Family M. Madrid, UP Visayas; Fernando Tablelo, UP Visayas-Iloilo; Ed U. Quimpo Jr., UP Diliman; Maria Nela B. Florendo, UP Baguio; Raymundo D. Rovillos, UP Baguio; Francis A. Cendaja, Ateneo de Manila University; Stephen Henry S. Tiziano, ADMU; Cathlyn Anne Abrahamse, Silliman University-Iloilo; Joel Jude Paul L. Ocoyo, Silliman University; and Reginaldo Tercia Jose, University of Cuenca, Tuscan.

Founded in 1941, the Philippine National Historical Society is the oldest such organization in the country.

Since its first national conference on local and national history in 1976 at Xavier University, the PNHS has held annual conferences in various provinces, usually focusing on the local history of the region or province where the conference is held.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita G. Churchill, PNHS president and national conference co-convenor, Pete Pablo Armamed III at (032) 921-4575, (32) 926-1547 (fax), (918) 444-8130, or e-mail bmchurchill@hotmail.com; conference co-convenors Prof. Pablo Armamed III at (053) 325-6487, (053) 325-6222 (fax), (918) 300-8430 or e-mail dmonsanto@ 1963@yahoo.com and Dr. Rolando O. Borromeo, (053) 323-1373, (918) 630-7695, or e-mail rolborr@skyinet.net or rolborr@yahoo.com.

Left hits PNP on 21 cases

THE COMMUNIST LEFT-LED NATIONAL Democratic Front denounced the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig for claiming to have solved 21 cases of political killings in the past nine weeks, "even before the investigation could start."

"The list of Task Force Usig are contradicted by the testimonies of survivors and other witnesses who present the facts and circumstances which clearly point to the culpability of the military, the police and death squads of the Arroyo regime," said Prof. S. Ignacio, chair of the NDF human rights committee, in an e-mailed message.

The PNP reported last Tuesday that the Task Force Usig was able to solve 21 cases of political killings within the 10-week deadline given by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said that with the filing of charges in court against the suspects, the 21 cases were considered solved. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

ANNOUNCEMENT

TAKE A STAND. SUBSCRIBE TODAY.

Still fence-sitting on whether you should subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer or not? Take a stand and subscribe. Call us now and free yourself from the hassles of getting a copy of the Inquirer, and have it delivered to your doorstep **AT NO EXTRA CHARGE.** Plus, get **FREE** monthly issues of Just Shop, Junior Inquirer, Inquirer Golf and Inquirer Badminton.

Just choose from any of the following subscription plans:

SUBSCRIPTION 1	SUBSCRIPTION 2	SUBSCRIPTION 3
360 issues	180 issues	90 issues
+22 issues FREE/year	+10 issues FREE/year	+4 issues FREE/year
SAVE P396!	**SAVE P180!**	**SAVE P72!**

You can pay for any subscription plan by cash, MasterCard, or VISA! Go ahead, take a stand.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers.

Call 896-6000 to subscribe!

Cebu to Metro Manila inclusive rates

RP now importing wood needs due to deforestation

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—SIXTY PERCENT of the country's wood needs is being imported because of the woeful condition and denudation of our forests, local foresters said at the 58th anniversary celebration and national convention of the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (SOFF) held here last week.

Ruben Umali, SFFI national council president, said it would take the government "hundreds of years and trillions of pesos" to rehabilitate the barren forest lots if the popular commitment for the effort this could be observed by up to 50 years.

Edlwin Ignis, director for policy planning at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the country's forest area had widened from 5.5 million hectares to 7.5 million ha in five years – between 2001 and 2006 – through the reforestation and forest management efforts of the government and other sectors.

In 1950, the country had 17 million ha of forests.

Ignis said DFFI, in cooperation with the DENR and local governments units (LGUs), was aiming for "sustainable forest areas not harvested," more than our rehabilitation.

"We can work with the LGUs by sharing our knowledge in forest land use planning. We could help determine which forests could be used for production and commercial purposes and which for environmental considerations like preserving biodiversity and water," Umali said.

Ignis said DFFI was seeking the support of the private sector to establish a massive tree plantation since the government had scarce funds for the initiative.

He said the 800,000 trees planted on Aug. 23 for the green highways campaign showed the people's concern for the environment.

The foresters are still waiting for the Senate to pass the Sustainable Forest Management Act, which has been under deliberation for 11 years.

"We need a new law that is more comprehensive. We remember only six executive orders which have affected regular issues for forest management," Umali said.

He said one of the factors that was delaying the passage of the bill was the debate on allowable rate that should subsume a total or a selective log ban.

On the controversial land use conflict going on at the La Mesa watershed because of a planned housing project, Ignis said the SFFI did not have enough to say about it since the watershed was a titled property owned by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

"The question now is, will the MWSS allow the DENR to make it a protected area even if it is a titled property? Sorry, though, would want it proclaimed a protected area since we want to protect our watersheds," he said.

There are some 8,000 licensed foresters in the country who are members of the SFFI, the main forestry service provider for the national and local governments, nongovernment and the private sector.

The SFFI said it would continue to find ways and strategies to train more its professional foresters.

It said it also supports the efforts of forestry schools to come up with a more relevant curriculum that would produce quality foresters who would save the forests from natural devastation for the benefit of future generations.

HOLYLAND EGYPT/TURKEY Nov 17
GREECE/DUBAI
Dubai, Cairo, Istanbul, Athens, Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes
Alabama EXPRESS TRAVEL

CALL CENTER TRAINING Program!

ThursDeals

SAINT MARY'S College of San Juan
NURSING
720-8930 or 30 Mon - Sat 7am - 6pm

In 10 days
you will be ready to take the NCLEX-RN® exam!
Enroll in our
10-day Comprehensive Review Class
this November 6-17, 2006.
LEARN FROM HIGHLY QUALIFIED U.S. TRAINING RN WITH MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF COMBINED HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE AND NURSING INSTRUCTION
INTEGRATE CURRENT NURSING PRACTICES INTO YOUR TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES
OBTAIN PERSONALIZED ANALYSIS AND FEEDBACK ON PERFORMANCE, BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE AND OVERCOME YOUR WEAKNESSES
LINKUS REVIEW CENTER
Seats are limited! Call now!
(02) 687-2082
(02) 687-2083
(906) 492-5637

Grab The Biggest Promo of the Year For SHANGHAI and BEIJING
First Come First Serve Basis Only!!!
28 / 22 / 23 Oct. Departure only
4D SHANGHAI
3* HOTEL $199 4* HOTEL $269
4N SHENZHEN 3N SHANGHAI
3* HOTEL $299 4* HOTEL $379
4N SHENZHEN 3N BEIJING 3N SHANGHAI
3* HOTEL $399 4* HOTEL $529
28 Oct. Departure
5N SHANGHAI 3* $299 4* $369
5N SHANGHAI 3* $339 4* $399
5N BEIJING 3* $469 4* $529
5N BEIJING 3* $599 4* $659

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 8, 2006
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Genesis 2: 18-24

Two become one flesh

Yahweh God said, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will give him a helper who will be like him." Then Yahweh God formed from the earth all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air and brought them to Him to see how he would call them, and whatever Him called every living creature, that was its name.

So Man gave names to all the cattle, the birds of the air and to every beast of the field. But for Adam God among them a helper like himself. Then Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to come over Man and he fell asleep. So he took one of his ribs and filled its place with flesh. The rib which Yahweh God had taken from Man he formed into a woman and brought her to the man. The man then said, "Now this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken from man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is attached to his wife, and with her becomes one flesh.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Jesus' humanity

Jesus, who suffered death and for a little while was placed lower than the angels but been crowned with honor and glory. For the sweet helpless of God demanded that he experience death on behalf of everyone.

God, from whom all come and by whom all things exist, seemed to bring many children to glory, and he thought it fitting to make the pioneer through suffering the initiator of their salvation. So he who gives and those who receive holiness are one. He himself is not ashamed of calling us brothers and sisters.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16 (or 10:2-12)

No divorce

Some Pharisees came and put him to the test with this question, "Is it right for a husband to divorce his wife?" He replied, "What law did Moses give you?" They answered, "Moses allowed us to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her."

Then Jesus said to them, "Moses wrote this law for you, because you are stubborn. But in the beginning of creation God made them male and female. and because of this, man has to leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body. So they are no longer two but one body. Therefore let no one separate what God has joined."

When they were indoors at home, the disciples again asked him about this and he told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against his wife, and if the woman who divorces her husband and marries another also commits adultery."

People were bringing their little children to him to have him touch them, and the disciples rebuked them for this.

When Jesus noticed it, he was very angry and said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and laying his hands on them, blessed them.

(Continued on p. 2)

We have one of the mysteries of creation. Woman created because it was not good for man to be alone. We are all created for company, to encourage friendliness. To be one flesh, in the one human race. And marriage is the physical way the human race is continued from generation to generation, in an relationship of love and companionship (of husband and wife).

And we hear of Jesus—both as one of us, knowing life and death, the mercy of God and fullness of life—so that all of us might know the glory of being the children of God, the brothers and sisters of God. God's life in Jesus is our largest, truest and deepest family, more than any blood tie or marriage as the world plans. And it is more than we all become faithful children in his kingdom, no matter what our choices of vocation. (Rev. Fr. Jerry van de Kerckhove, SVD)

Claretian Publications Inc., 6 Maginoo St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, DP.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Tel. 921-3080, fax 921-7426, E-mail: pcl@claret.org Website: http://www.feibc.org/~pcl/claretpl/claretpublications.htm, J. & http://majesticdove.planet.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Q. How does one obtain a working visa? Is it possible to become a green card holder through the sponsorship of an employer? Who is to name a close family member to immigrate after the petition has been approved?
A. ...learn all the answers at the informational seminar on

U.S. IMMIGRATION
OPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

October 13, 2006
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
South Mall Room, 25th Floor
Ayala Towers One and Exchange Plaza
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Registration and Reservation
Call/Text: (0917) 8921849, (0916) 7345026
Email: registration@madridcroft.com

MC
"Specialized, Efficient Instruction by Competent Immigration Solutions"
Law Offices of Mary Carmen R. Madrid-Croft
10 S. La Salle Street, Suite 3320, Chicago, IL 60603 USA
www.madridcroft.com

GREATEST BIGGEST LOWEST
PROJECTOR SALE
OCT. 13-14, 2006, 9AM TO 5 PM (2 DAYS ONLY!)
30% off
Projector World

AD/HD Society of the Philippines
The Child with AD/HD...
All Grown Up?
Dealing with Adolescence
Oct. 19, 20 & 21, 2006

Shop at SM Department Store using your
pull tab cards for a chance to WIN inst

P3MILLION*

in total prizes at stake!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • DELGADO • CE

VISA and get
tant prizes!
VISA
All it takes
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
Pull-Off Surprizes
VISA VISA VISA = ₱1 Million
1 Winner
Shopping Credits
SM SM SM = ₱1,000
200 Winners
SM Gift Cards
VISA SM VISA = ₱500
3,200 Winners
SM Gift Cards
Every P1,500 single receipt purchase on your VISA card entitles you to a Pull Tab Card for a chance to WIN instant prizes!
Promo Period: October 1 - 31, 2006
See mechanics posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4073 Series of 2006
VISA
All it takes
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
* Inclusive of Prize Tax
See mechanics posters for details.
PULL TAB CARDS ARE PROTECTED WITH SECURITY FEATURES.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4073 Series of 2006
BU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • SUCAT • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑA • SAN LAZARO • STA ROSA • BATANGAS • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Dumb

ON SEPT. 27, ON THE SAME DAY THE OFFICE OF the Ombudsman resolved to dismiss criminal and administrative liabilities against all those involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific contract, the office also found probable cause to charge Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and 10 others for "alleged irregular purchases of office partitions and furniture" worth P32.32 million.

EDITORIAL

To anyone but the most obtuse, the difference in the outcome of the two cases is easily explained. Binay is a leader of the opposition, and is therefore presumed guilty. Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and other persons implicated in the Mega Pacific anomaly are identified with the administration, and—despite evidence of gross abuse of discretion that passes even the Supreme Court's own stringent standards—must therefore be found innocent.

Gutierrez apparently thinks the public would not notice the difference, or perhaps she has come to believe those Palace operators who, despite what they say about the importance of public opinion, act as though they really don't care.

(Am we being unfair in characterizing the Ombudsman's Sept. 27 resolution on the Mega Pacific case as incorrigibly partisan? Hardly. Yesterday, more administration allies in Congress rushed to Gutierrez's defense, with some of them even gleefully declaring any attempt to impeach the Ombudsman is doomed. Because she had stuck it on her side? No. Because, they said, the administration has the numbers. Partisanship, again, trumps the majesty of the law.)

The case against Binay is familiar enough; suffice it to say that the Ombudsman found certain details in the bidding and awards for certain equipment "highly irregular," resulting in "undue injury to the government."

That summary, in less than 20 words, applies equally well to the Mega Pacific contract. The Supreme Court, having taken cognizance of the complaint because of the transcendent importance of the matter at hand, found serious irregularities in the bidding for and the awarding of a P1.3-billion contract for automated counting machines. And yet the Ombudsman, fatally shrewd to actions by a dismayed Supreme Court, found no probable cause to hold anyone, no one at all, accountable.

We know it requires an enormous act of clutching-down to forget what one has learned in law school, and decide cases using extra-legal criteria. But does the Ombudsman think everyone else is dumb too?

We are disappointed to see Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio add his voice to the concert of script-readers. We heard him appeal to the public to read the Sept. 27 resolution first, before jumping to conclusions. Well, we've read the resolution, and we are decidedly underwhelmed. There is, essentially, nothing new in that resolution; the arguments of the Ombudsman-and have already been deployed by the Chewbies, and rejected by the high court.

The resolution, however, uses one of the oldest tricks in the book: the Ombudsman or her writers frame the issues in the case in the way most favorable to the outcome they desire. Hence, the ostensibly above-board and separated references to sub-paragraphs (e) and (g) of Section 3 of Republic Act 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

We quarrel with the Ombudsman's interpretation of the facts, as viewed from the prism of those two sub-paragraphs. She thinks the Mega Pacific contract is not "grossly and manifestly disadvantageous to the government." We think it is. She thinks so also at the Chewbie exhibited "manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence." We think she is merely playing dumb.

But—the question we really want to ask—why stop at sub-paragraphs (e) and (g)? If the Ombudsman had only designed to look a little further, she would have found (she may have simply forgotten) the second part of sub-paragraph (f), which reads: "Interest for personal gain shall be presumed against those public officers responsible for the approval of manifestly unlawful, inequitable, or irregular transactions or acts by the board, panel or group to which they belong."

No one disputes that the Mega Pacific contract is already voided, because the Supreme Court has held again and again that it was an irregular transaction. Therefore, personal gain must be presumed. Sounds like the solid basis of a probable cause—unless, of course, we are like the Ombudsman and play dumb.

Publisher **Isaac Tiglao**
Editor in Chief/Chief Executive Officer **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Regalado**
Executive Editor **Raymundo O. Rodriguez**
Associate Editors for Standards **Rosalinda R. Gonzalez** and
News Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, News Day Desk **Neal G. Pacheco**
Opinion Editor **Juan V. Arcos**
Business Editor **Francisco S. Sumangil Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Jose F. Sumangil Jr.**
Editor at Literature **Antonio Enriquez**
Chief Photographer **Ernie E. Esperas** Jr.
Art & Design Director **Grace A. Velasco**

Vice Chairman/Publisher **Marne H. Punzalan**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **Dante O. Nuñez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Rizal O. Mercado**
Vice Chairman Emeritus **Ruth R. Guazon**
Office of the Chairman **Isaac Tiglao II, Tey**

Finance Advisor **Lorna Kalaw-Tirol**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied in any form or by any means without the permission of the publisher.

Fallback on Plan B

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LISTENING TO THE ORAL ARGUMENTS ON the Cha-cha in the Supreme Court the other Tuesday, I could not help feeling sorry for the lead counsel, both cordial colleagues of mine, who looked like doomed cowboys in a cattle rustling bust. I suppose they were performing the unfamiliar role of defending a cause they did not really believe in but were supporting just the same only out of a sense of duty they should not have accepted in the first place.

The principal petitioner was no better either. He probably thought the justices were how persuadable but was deadened soon enough with their unending questions that showed to him the confines that he was the best opponent against his petition. Some justices on the high court are supposed mass-consumers, and their presumptuous heroics come from topics they have learned in their dismay, and they observe they something way to exception.

The prestigious lawyer for the respondents, an formidable as their arguments were against the petition, were already superfluous from before they took the floor. The Cha-cha was already dead on the water when their turn to speak arose. Even before the Supreme Court could invalidate the measure to a formal decision it is be written, lately in the audacious that "Tuesday, the 8th day of November" of the present had already eliminated it of the coup de grâce.

The cabal led by President Macapagal Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia, who are desperate to change the present Constitution with a parliamentary system where they expect to remain in power, must have already read the writing on the wall and are now putting up Plan B. This is what they call the Con-Am, which by its name alone proclaims its autonomy.

Under its Art. XVII, Sec. 1, "any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) the Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; or (2) a constitutional convention." The Senate is reluctant to support the first method because of the announced plans of the representatives in replace the bicameral Congress with a unicameral legislature.

The objection of the Upper House does not bother the members of the Lower House. They say that if the Senate refuses to participate in the Con-Am, they in the House of Representatives can do it alone. They argue that when the Constitution speaks of three-fourths of all the members of Congress, it means three-fourths of the 23 senators and 236 representatives taken together, or 259 legislators in all. Three-fourths of this number is 194 and they can all come solely from the House of Representatives to the exclusion of all the senators.

This argument is based on a well-known canon of legal interpretation calling for the literal interpretation of a law according to its usual meaning unless the consequences are absurd or unreasonable. The Constitution, it is said, will indicate whether a voting by the two Houses of Congress shall be done jointly as in revoking a declaration of martial law, or separately, as to the declaration of a state of war. Without such specification, as in Sec. 1 of Art. XVII, voting shall be considered as jointly.

The trouble is that the Constitutional Commission of 1986 simply copied the pertinent provisions in the 1973 Constitution which established a unicameral legislature that essentially could vote only jointly. They never have

Isagani A. Cruz

imagined that the Congress they were formulating was bicameral, which ought to have meant to indicate when they should vote jointly and when they should vote separately.

Resolution of the conflicting interpretations of the said provision should probably take into account the nature of the bicameral legislature where the two chambers should work together in pursuit of their common purpose. Except where the Constitution specifically says that they should vote either jointly or separately, they should be required to vote separately on that the will of either chamber may be heard.

There are functions exclusively vested in either of the two Houses of Congress because of their special aptitudes in performing them. To illustrate, the House of Representatives has the exclusive power to originate an appropriation bill or a bill of local application because of its superior familiarity with these matters. But only the Senate can concur with a treaty because of the supposed expertise on foreign affairs of its members, with some ridiculous exceptions.

Normally, however, the two Houses should work together but separately as befits their mutually independent character. Significantly, Art. VII, Sec. 10 of the Constitution says that the President shall "meet the power to grant reprieves with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of Congress," but without indicating how the voting shall be done. That sense is obtained not jointly but, by agreement of both Houses, separately from each other.

In Guevara v. Inocentes, 36 SCRA 279, the Supreme Court observed in session over do on Jan. 22, 1968 but the House of Representatives ought to continue its session until Jan. 24. The Supreme Court held that the Lower House could not continue meeting after the Senate had adjourned sine die because the House of Representatives without the Senate was not "Congress."

Believe like a child

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A FILIPINO ASKED HIS WIFE: "HONEY, IS IT true that in heaven, we will no longer recognize each other and will not know each other?"

"I think so. That's why they call it heaven," was the wife's reply.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 2-16), Jesus reminds us about the sacredness and permanence of marriage. "Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Why is Jesus so strong in this teaching?

Immediately after this statement, we read Jesus' statement that the children and how the pair He arms around them, laid His hands on them and gave them His blessings. Yes, it is in the little ones who suffer and are affected forever when adults, because of the hardness of their hearts, take the road of divorce.

* * *

Pity the children. It is they who suffer when their parents become selfless and irresponsible. It's sad that some parents become the problem of their children. Some children never get the chance to enjoy their childhood, and never get to live up and their fullness of the heavy baggage dumped on them by their so-called parents.

* * *

Husbands and wives, learn from the chapel kids. It is God who is behaving both of you, in your prayer, don't build the relationship too tight or too loose, so you too must hold each other just right; just one thing which won't make it; the two sticks must be equal; so, you too must try to adjust and make the ends either in all aspects; your thoughts between which the other is ready, so you too must learn to keep quiet when one is angry. Finally, don't chop each other, stick with each other; for God has brought you be a mission together.

* * *

While most of us adults are so busy making a living or making a name, let us not miss on the little things on the little ones. Children need our time, our encouragement and our support.

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ation, for as not behold the little ones, as not them aside as if they don't exist. They do count, and they remember the things we do or say. Please take time today to do little things for the little ones.

* * *

What does a child believe in? I would like to share with you a song I made for Sarina Soriano, a 13-year-old blind girl who is an inspiration for her simple faith, joy and trust. Its title is "Believe, Like A Child":

I believe in somewhere, I believe in "impossibles"; I believe in love and blessings from others; I believe in God; I believe God will provide; I believe He's at my side; I believe He knows my wishes and desires; yes I believe in God; I believe in letting go, and letting God; I believe He has a plan; I believe His hidden hand; I believe He's doing every thing He can; I believe things will be fine all in His time; I believe and trust He has a big surprise; yes, I believe I on His child.

* * *

Let God be God! A lot of problems arise when we want to fight to think and act like God. Being me an exemplar the presence of a being greater than ourselves, and as long as we are guided by a power above us, then there is hope. People who have power must never lose sight of the fact that they are responsible and are answerable to God, otherwise they could easily and comfortably fall to the temptation of abusing and misusing power. Warning: Stop playing God.

* * *

More and more, I realize the futility and vanity of playing the game of control. The fact is, there are many things beyond our control. I pity those who are still very much into this losing game of control, especially those involved in cheating, lying, stealing and even killing, to share this experience we control, I repeat, it's a losing game. Please let go, and let God, sooner or later, things will catch up with you.

* * *

God answers prayers! Remember my old, gray hair words when I wrote about the possibility of having a book launching without a book due to power failure? I called up the publisher Saturday afternoon and just prayed with them that power be restored. I just practically surrendered it all to the Lord and to the Blessed Mother. Guess what? Power was after the call, power was restored, and the publishers began to roll. By Sunday afternoon, the books were delivered, and we successfully launched our book "Candid Moments." All because we believed like a child, and held on to the power of prayer. Do you really believe that God answers prayers? Do you really trust like a child in God our Loving Father?

* * *

Calling all SVD and SVD alumni of Christ the King Mission Seminary, Quezon City for a grand homecoming on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday). Activities start at 8 a.m. The theme for this year's reunion is "In-live the Past, Renew Relationships, Build the Future." For inquiries, please call the SVD Association office (410-6616, 721-71-71) or contact Joseph LaBrao (09 15-855-7458), Rizzie Bhagat (0928-5027326), Edwin Calupa (09 15-3822296).

* * *

"Be young and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid ... for the Lord, the God, He it is who dwells do with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Let God be your pillar in these troubled times, text ON <space> PRAYER and send to 2048 for Globe/Sun or 2048 for Smart and receive daily prayers. God bless you. (Susan Shay loves you)

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to believe and keep on believing like a child. Amen.

Ogata and Obama

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST MONTH, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION International (CPI), a Philippine-based humanitarian organization, celebrated its 25th year of "rebuilding lives" in both domestic and international settings. Committed to peace and social development, with a particular interest in the psycho-social dimension, the program of CPI is to rebuild the lives of refugees, the internally-displaced, disaster survivors and others in temporarily difficult circumstances.

In 2000, CPI is chaired by Dr. Anne Galvez Tan, with Dr. Irene Hilario as executive director, launched its Mindanao program in direct response to the war between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Its projects focus on community development, peace education, relief, livelihood, building schools and daycare centers for children, teacher training and the development of indigenous livelihood. At present, CPI is working with 7,000 families in 28 conflict-affected barangays in Central Mindanao, with Cotabato City as its base of operations.

So it used to be after anniversary, CPI invited as its guest of honor, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, currently the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Recognized around the world as a leading figure in the humanitarian assistance and development arenas, Ogata is best known for her highly distinguished service as UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from 1991 to 2000, for which she received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding in 1997. She also served as Japan's permanent representative to the UN from 1976 to 1979. She was also a member of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) from 1976 to 1979.

In a 1992 interview with Henry Kissinger, Ogata described how she became UN high commissioner as "I was professor of international relations until January of last year, and I was appointed and elected—the high commissioner is an office that is appointed by the secretary general but elected by the General Assembly. I had the honor of being selected by the General Assembly. I was the 10th High Commissioner for Refugees. I started working in July-early 1991 and knowing that I would be having the burden (one of the high commissioner's harsh) because refugee problems have expanded in many directions, not only in number but in complexity. I have approximately 25 million people in Mindanao and was preparing to leave for other places in South Asia as part of her continuing efforts in the field of humanitarian assistance around the world. Mrs. Ogata is an amazing woman of great strength and compassion, a truly international civil servant.

* * *

A few days ago, while browsing through several programs on TV, I spotted a report on CNN caught my attention. A young African-American with his wife was visiting Kenya, the birthplace of his father and he was happy to find during the stay to his parents' ancestral village, like a hero who had just returned home victorious and all-conquering.

Barack Obama is presently the junior Democratic senator from Illinois and this early he is being touted as a possible vice presidential running mate to Sen. Hillary Clinton if she wins the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008. Other reports go so far as to mention him as possibly the first black US presidential candidate in the 21st century. By coincidence, the seat in Illinois recently sent me a book "Dreams From My Father," an autobiographical work by Obama who traces his life as the son of a black African father from Kenya and a white American mother from Kansas who met while both were attending the University of Hawaii.

Barack—fondly by "me who is blessed by God"—learned when his father left the family to return to Kenya to serve as an economist for the government. Barack's mother remarried an Indonesian whom he was fond, and he spent four years in Jakarta.

Only since in his life—at the age of 10—was he exposed to his biological father. Perhaps, this explains his deep attachment to his mother whom he describes as "the single constant in my life. In my daughters, I see her every day; her joy her capacity for wonder. I won't try to describe how deeply I mourn her passing still. I know that she was [that] kind of most generous spirit I have ever known and that she was [that] rare."

After graduating from Columbia University with a degree in political science, Obama enrolled at Harvard Law School where he finished magna cum laude. While there, he became the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review.

Obama's political career started in 1996 when he was elected to the Illinois state senate. In 2000, he lost in a bid for a congressional seat, but in 2004 he was overwhelmingly elected to the US Senate to become only the third African-American elected to the US Congress since the Reconstruction period after the US Civil War.

Obama, 43, considered one of the brightest young stars in the Democratic Party, became a national figure when he delivered the all-important keynote address at the Democratic presidential convention in Boston in 2004. He still has hearing more from this young man in the years ahead.

Hypocrisy is the issue

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE CRIES AND SCANDAL THAT HAS LED TO the resignation of US Rep. Mark Foley is not about his sexuality (he has admitted to being gay) or even his sexual history (he has also publicly "confessed" to having been molested by a clergyman at his youth). It is, more about his hypocrisy.

Foley outlayed after endless of a TV news show told him that it was saving a story about sexually explicit e-mail messages he had sent a teenage congressional page. Pages serve in the House of Representatives as assistants to members and are nominated by their local congressional representatives, chosen from among the youths with a special interest in government and politics.

Once the e-mail messages—messages were made public, other teenage pages—one of them as young as 16, and another who served as a page in 1997, long before House leaders thought Foley began propositioning the young men...came out with their own accounts of being approached by the openly homosexual congressman.

The fact that certain of staff of Foley's has told reporters that they had warned the congressman's leaders of the Speaker about the congressman's dalliings with pages. This contradicts Hastert's assertion that he and his staff learned about Foley's e-mails to pages only last week, when the scandal broke out. It has also thrown into doubt the leadership of the Republicans, who oversees the page program, had already "admonished" Foley about his continued contact with the pages, but did nothing else to ensure that the supposedly solution ended, or to investigate whether other pages were involved.

"Could we have done it better? Could the page board have handled it better? In retrospect, probably yes," Hastert said. "But at the time, what we knew and what we acted upon was what we had."

Added Hastert: "I don't know who knew what when. ... If it's members of my staff that didn't do the job, we will act appropriately."

* * *

LESSONS: a touch of silence to this cyber sex scandal. It is sad that Foley developed issues and affairs as gregarious. If a little due crucial, made his first impact to Florida politics as a defender of child rights, making a name as a champion of children and a defender against pedophiles and other sexual predators.

Which is not to say that as a gay man, he had no right to champion children's causes. Despite the efforts, not all gay men target boys as objects of sexual desire, and not all pedophiles are necessarily gay.

As noted in the New York Times noted that for over 12 years in Congress, Foley "became extraordinarily adept at projecting a magnetic public persona—helped along by loyal aides and a talent for breezily calling his opponents unstable conducting a private life fraught with more secrets than anyone imagined."

Friends now say that they had known about Foley's being gay but did not discuss it with him, for his constituents knew about his sexual orientation and being motivated by a period when he was a teenager, "felt friends were more reserved, and skeptical," the Times reported.

His friends and supporters also say they understand why Foley "developed issues of special preferences a secret, or at least as low key as it could be, given the conservatism of his Catholic parents and of his political circles he moved in. But now the former congressman's associates question his claims of molestation, saying that even if it were true, "it sounded too much like excuse making." And while Foley's lawyers claim their client was an alcoholic who sent those e-mail messages while drunk, his friends in Florida say they rarely saw him drinking a glass.

"It sounds more like the advice of a topnotch criminal defense lawyer," said Sidney Bunnen, a former mayor of Lake Worth, the wrapper town where Foley grew up," the Times reported.

* * *

THE PICTURE that emerges from Foley's efforts to survive as a conservative Republican with a special interest in children's causes, while trying to live with his sexuality, is one of a deeply troubled man who, because he had gotten away with it for so long, pushed the envelope of appropriate behavior with almost.

In Florida, friends say he had a longtime companion, a man who has since left him. Still, Foley was man seen with little publicity but he never discussed this aspect of his life with friends or family. And there are those who believe that "a long time ago ... Foley had an unspoken contract with the Republican Party to keep quiet."

"I think they were willing to overlook it as long as he stayed in the closet," said a friend, "I don't know how he behaved in Washington, but down here the cops was always public issues and not personal issues."

Of course, the sexually explicit e-mail messages, which have set to be made public, would not have been "right" given the "moral sensibilities" Foley exposed over the teenage boys, and stuck it he had been discovered in the closet earlier.

But one wonders if the former Florida lawmaker would have been driven to such underhanded behavior if he hadn't felt forced to conceal a vital, essential part of his person, and allowed to get away with inappropriate behavior for so long.

Fate, everyone makes mistakes. But Republicans have made no bones about hunting on the mistakes of everyone else—including a string they have—and their behavior with regard to Foley cannot them with hypocrisy as well.

Institutions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

INSTITUTIONS ARE CLUSTERS OF FORMAL rules and informal norms that derive their power from the shared values and moral instincts of a people. These are the tools by which a society reaches its life. Institutions shape our individual choices and behavior, and constrain unruly and selfish behavior. They are strong or weak, adequate or inadequate to the complex requirements of modern living.

It used to be thought that all that was needed for the less developed countries to grow and survive economically was to adopt the institutions of capitalism and technology. Thus, emphasis was put on building the infrastructure and disseminating existing knowledge. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were the twin purveyors of this development ideology. The outcomes of this experiment are now very evident. In his new book, political analyst Francis Fukuyama in his new book, "America at the Crossroads," so much external funding went into the pockets of politicians, many of them leaders of US-sponsored authoritarian regimes.

The failure of development, Fukuyama argues, paved the way for the shift in emphasis to governance and global integration. "Economic planning fell out of favor both in the developed and the less developed world and was replaced by a strong emphasis on free markets and global economic integration." But in the late 1990s, the neo-liberal belief in the efficacy of markets was severely tested by the run with the realities of institutional failure. "There are too many examples of countries with otherwise good prospects whose development was undermined by capricious leaders, ethnic conflict, interest or criminal use, or other purely political factors."

But, Fukuyama asks almost plaintively, how does one create modern institutions where they do not exist, or strengthen their effects they are weak? He reminder that this is not merely a technocratic problem, but a political one. He cites poor fiscal management as an example. Often, he says, the reason is not the absence of any framework to monitor budgets. "More often the problem comes from politicians who want to use their budgetary discretion to leverage networks that are critical to their political survival. Asking them to be fiscally responsible may be tantamount to asking them to commit political suicide ... In the absence of internal political demand for reform, it may never be possible to get the institutions right."

It came to point in our own push-based system which effectively entrenches patronage as a basic component of the political system. Congress already exercises the general power to shape the annual budget through various budget hearings and deliberations. It's special power to allocate pork is so-called "countryside development fund" to every legislator, who is then given the prerogative to designate the specific projects on which the fund is to be spent, given against every norm of rational planning. There are public funds. The law says that these are meant to be used for public use and prioritize rather than on the personal preferences of politicians. And yet we don't have fund protests against pork barrel.

Apart from its corrupting effects, the pork barrel makes our lawmakers' natural enemies of the executive who controls budget releases. The argument of the executive seems more than every time Congress fails to enact a new budget. Because of the enormous leeway it gives to the President, a re-enacted budget becomes nothing more than a huge pork barrel.

So, after President Arroyo's mayhem Macoy, has mastered the science of patronage better than—Ilocano for the master of key framework to monitor budgets. "More often the problem comes from politicians who want to use their budgetary discretion to leverage networks that are critical to their political survival. Asking them to be fiscally responsible may be tantamount to asking them to commit political suicide ... In the absence of internal political demand for reform, it may never be possible to get the institutions right."

It came to point in our own push-based system which effectively entrenches patronage as a basic component of the political system. Congress already exercises the general power to shape the annual budget through various budget hearings and deliberations. It's special power to allocate pork is so-called "countryside development fund" to every legislator, who is then given the prerogative to designate the specific projects on which the fund is to be spent, given against every norm of rational planning. There are public funds. The law says that these are meant to be used for public use and prioritize rather than on the personal preferences of politicians. And yet we don't have fund protests against pork barrel.

Apart from its corrupting effects, the pork barrel makes our lawmakers' natural enemies of the executive who controls budget releases. The argument of the executive seems more than every time Congress fails to enact a new budget. Because of the enormous leeway it gives to the President, a re-enacted budget becomes nothing more than a huge pork barrel.

So, after President Arroyo's mayhem Macoy, has mastered the science of patronage better than—Ilocano for the master of key

Growing pains

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THREE MAY ONE SUNDAY, ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO...A hot, humid Sunday where the concrete blocking ground, and there was only the occasional car creaking down the highway, My brother was driving, and my mother was sitting out front. She beckoned to me to drive down. I was twelve, going on thirteen then, blissful in the thought of finally being old enough to displace my father from the passenger seat. It was a special day, I don't remember why. We were starting off to visit a Japanese restaurant with a fancy restaurant where my dad taught me how to use chopsticks by passing a wad of tissue paper between the two sticks and smearing the whole business with an eraser to bind from my hair.

Now I remember images—my hand less shaky being delivered by a salt watery, the shiny silver barrel of the gun that one of them aimed at the waiter, the white tile floor of the 3-by-3 dead bathroom where we were shoved into, along with two other dozen cooks, three waiters and a pair of hysterical Chinese women.

I remember sounds—the bathroom door swinging open, the muttered demand for cash and jewelry, my father begging to keep his wedding ring. I remember the smell of sweat and cooking oil and stale air freshener. What I don't remember is being afraid.

Back then, I stuffed between the cook's beer belly and the toilet. I knew nothing bad was going to happen, because we were the good guys. I believed, if not in superman, then in the principle behind the man. I believed that the Knight always slayed the dragon, and that the Wicked Witch of the West got her just desserts. The man with the silver gun was the bad guy, and by virtue of that, was not human to me. I was pleading out the scene in my head, half expecting them to blame, or my father to smash the gun against the gunman's crotch. Neither happened, and we eventually crowded out of the bathroom and got a free meal—although by then my tired-ass shaker had melted. Eventually, the robbers were caught, and the good guys went to the cops.

My friend Sheila gave me a letter on my 21st birthday, and congratulated me for my discovery of the difference between "growing old" and "growing up." That was more than a month ago. I already thought I was grown-up, laboring under the assumption that being grown-up meant better shoes, a general mistrust of humanity, an independence of self and an acceptance that God made a mistake every week by giving had. It was only a couple of days ago that I realized what the implications of "grown-up" was, and it took a 16-year-old girl with quiet eyes to teach me.

I teach creative non-fiction at a private all-girls Catholic school. I read the job because I needed the income, and it's a sign that I'm not quite grown-up, that I'm admitting that here. Students, after all, are supposed to teach far less and with a sense of mission. As I'm holding down the jobs and cannot understand why I'm constantly broke. I have no room for the misery of pretending money does not matter. I like checks. I like getting paid, and I like standing in the middle of a grocery aisle and deciding to buy both shampoo and the conditioner instead of just one because they're on sale. I like and play Miss Teacher, squirming under a dress code that requires 60 percent of the clothes in my closet and hope, even if I don't do anyone any good, that at least I won't be doing much harm.

A few days ago, I was sitting in the back of a cab after class, rumbling in the afternoon traffic when the air was library from the heat, and the elephant who sat on my head threatened to crush my skull. I was reading someone's essay, just homework I asked them to do about their mothers and what they might have been like at 15 or 16 years old. That's when I saw it, leaping off the page, sentences and insights and a core taken that made me catch my breath.

And I realized, there's no girl's talent was my response ability, and I didn't know if I could do it justice. I was a writer who couldn't write fiction or poetry, and whose literary prize amounted to an extensive understanding of paperback romances. By that time, I was teaching because of more than just paychecks. I had students who could write, and write well, but they had no idea how good they were. I knew that I was not of my depth. It's an uncomfortable feeling, something as Joan Didion said, like being confronted by a vampire and realizing you haven't got a crucifix.

I don't think growing up is about disillusionment, or cynicism, or being sensible and capable and ready for any eventuality. I think that it's about knowing what you're not always prepared, and that the world will not always provide what you think you're entitled to, and that not even your will play by the same standards of what you think is right and wrong and good and evil. It's that smoking suspected that. And sometimes, that you're not the best girl in the world...although you'll always be his best girl. It's knowing all this, and still continuing to convey a sheet of bond paper in the hope that you're doing the right thing.

I don't know all the answers yet, although that's just as well. I know this much though: that the foolishness of youth is always the best excuse for recklessness. I will not deny the recklessness—I am, after all, the girl who once pelt stuff mercilessly at my brother, and who, at the age of 15, was in my youth. You stupid fucking I am, and not because of the number of years I've survived without an established card attached to my belly button. I regret that. I'll be just as stupid when I'm 30.

I distinctly remember interviewing the information officer of a Defense undersecretary—an ex-officio—and asking him if he still met journalists, not for any sensitivity on my part, but because I can't find the notebook where I recorded his name. He was in his late 30s, a man who announced that he had a background in journalism. The smug smile remained until he understood I was there because of certain solemn members in the undersecretary's jurisdiction. He said his office knew nothing, then blustered that I would be taking an unfair advantage if I wrote that he was "secretary of events." Saying he was "unaware," he said, would make his office sound incompetent. I told him that was his opinion, and it detracted from saying that it was also aware, and said that "unaware" was a factual word, meaning, a lack of knowledge. He asked how old I was, and I said, "you're so young," using my age as the disdain of someone who has just found the wrong registered.

There are some people who have always been grown-up, others who do by choice and circumstance, and still those who, even at their prime, refuse to grow up and just keep on growing old.

* * *

For comments, e-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

TALK of the TOWN

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Accurate weather forecast elusive

THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES Administration made a forecast that Typhoon Milenyo would be crossing Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte on the morning of Sept. 28. By afternoon, the typhoon would be 110 km east of Metro Manila, according to Pagasa.

The forecast did not correspond with what actually happened. Milenyo hit Metro Manila before lunch on Sept. 28, with its eye crossing the southern part of the metropolis. By 2 p.m. the typhoon had passed Metro Manila, leaving a trail of death and destruction.

It was the first typhoon to directly hit Metro Manila in 11 years. Had Pagasa warned the public that the typhoon would hit Metro Manila directly, people would have taken extra precautions.

Despite what happened, Pagasa said its forecast was not wrong. Most people may not agree with Pagasa's claim. A little forthrightness could help the weather agency gain the trust of the public.

Pagasa, nevertheless, acknowledged that Milenyo's intensity and direction were abnormal for a cyclone that had hit land mass before striking Metro Manila. The agency said it wanted to know what factors affected the typhoon's unusual movement.

Forecasting is still an inexact science. Despite advances in technology, the perfect forecast is elusive.

By Genie Osorinio B. Alejado

I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING the typhoons/storms in the last few years made by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and I recommend Severe Weather Bulletin #1 (Typhoon Milenyo) as the most inaccurate. Pagasa's first issue [was] at 11 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2006 (Wednesday) when Typhoon Milenyo was already 1,000 km away from the Philippine area of responsibility. Pagasa's first issue should be at least 72 hours before the typhoon enters the PAR. Pagasa's first issue was only 24 hours before the typhoon hit Metro Manila.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #2 issued at 5 a.m. on Sept. 28, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 110 km east of Metro Manila. Actually, the typhoon was already over Metro Manila at that time. Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #3 issued at 11 a.m. on Sept. 28, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Laguna at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #4 issued at 5 p.m. on Sept. 28, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Cavite at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #5 issued at 11 p.m. on Sept. 28, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #6 issued at 5 a.m. on Sept. 29, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #7 issued at 11 a.m. on Sept. 29, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #8 issued at 5 p.m. on Sept. 29, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #9 issued at 11 p.m. on Sept. 29, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #10 issued at 5 a.m. on Sept. 30, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #11 issued at 11 a.m. on Sept. 30, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #12 issued at 5 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #13 issued at 11 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #14 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 1, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #15 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 1, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #16 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #17 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #18 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 2, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #19 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 2, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #20 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 2, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #21 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 2, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #22 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 3, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #23 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #24 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 3, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #25 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 3, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #26 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 4, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #27 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 4, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #28 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #29 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #30 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 5, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #31 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 5, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #32 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #33 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #34 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #35 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #36 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #37 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 6, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #38 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 7, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #39 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 7, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #40 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #41 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #42 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 8, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #43 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 8, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #44 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #45 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #46 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 9, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #47 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 9, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #48 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 9, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #49 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 9, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #50 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #51 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #52 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #53 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #54 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 11, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #55 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 11, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #56 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 11, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #57 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 11, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #58 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 12, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #59 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 12, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #60 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 12, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #61 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 12, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #62 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 13, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #63 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 13, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #64 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 13, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #65 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 13, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #66 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #67 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #68 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 14, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #69 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 14, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #70 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 15, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #71 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 15, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #72 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 15, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #73 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 15, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #74 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 16, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #75 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 16, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #76 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 16, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #77 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 16, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #78 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 17, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #79 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 17, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #80 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 17, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #81 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 17, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #82 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 18, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #83 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 18, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #84 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #85 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #86 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 19, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #87 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 19, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #88 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #89 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #90 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 20, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #91 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 20, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #92 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #93 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #94 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #95 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #96 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #97 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #98 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #99 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #100 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #101 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #102 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 23, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #103 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #104 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #105 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #106 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 24, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #107 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 24, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #108 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 24, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #109 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 24, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #110 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 25, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #111 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 25, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #112 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #113 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #114 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 26, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #115 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 26, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #116 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 26, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #117 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 26, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #118 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 27, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #119 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 27, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #120 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #121 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2006 (Friday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #122 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 28, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #123 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 28, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #124 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 28, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #125 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 28, 2006 (Saturday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #126 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 29, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #127 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 29, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #128 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 29, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #129 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 29, 2006 (Sunday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #130 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 30, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #131 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 30, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #132 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #133 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2006 (Monday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #134 issued at 5 a.m. on Oct. 31, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #135 issued at 11 a.m. on Oct. 31, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #136 issued at 5 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #137 issued at 11 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2006 (Tuesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #138 issued at 5 a.m. on Nov. 1, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #139 issued at 11 a.m. on Nov. 1, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #140 issued at 5 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #141 issued at 11 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2006 (Wednesday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #142 issued at 5 a.m. on Nov. 2, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #143 issued at 11 a.m. on Nov. 2, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west of Infanta, Quezon. Actually, the typhoon was already over Batangas at that time.

Pagasa's Severe Weather Bulletin #144 issued at 5 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2006 (Thursday) was also inaccurate. Pagasa said that the typhoon was 30 km west

EZ2 SIX DIGIT
02 | 8 6 2 9 4 2
SUERTRES Mid-Day
4 5 7 | 5 9 8

Across the NATION

E-mail: pi_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer ate <space> text <space> message to 2337 (Globe) or 183 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
03 24 38 31 32 37
P4,474,852.20

MILF: Peace pact won't stop rebellion

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO REBELLION will continue even if the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agrees to sign the peace agreement being pushed by the government, a top MILF official said.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said even if the MILF agrees to disband after the signing of a peace treaty that fails to address the Moro's quest for self-determination, the peace deal will not solve problem as rebellious will remain a major headache for the government.

The MILF has branded the government's proposed peace settlement as half-baked because it already failed to address the issue on ancestral domain.

Younger rebels

Jaafar said other groups with young breed of fighters would inevitably emerge because of the unresolved issue of ancestral domain.

"Believe me, the problem will continue to serve as migraine to government peace negotiators even after we're gone. The quest for self-determination will continue to haunt the Philippine government unless the territorial issue is resolved," Jaafar said.

Jaafar said that unlike the present leadership of the MILF, those who would lead future Moro groups could be aggressive.

"We have aged and mellowed down, which would perhaps lead us to signing a peace pact short of our forebears' desire for an independent Muslim homeland," he said.

The MILF is seeking the inclusion of more than 1,000 villages in the Bangsamoro juridical entity, which will be established after the signing of the peace agreement.

But the government rejected the proposal saying only 600 villages were found to be pro-domestic Muslim.

Three villages are found mostly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other parts of central and western Mindanao.

The disagreement has dealt a serious blow to the peace negotiations with the MILF which has accused the government of insincerity.

ILIHOMO Islamic Liberation Front fighter guards the exit of their main camp called Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao on Tuesday. The MILF disappointed by the standoff in the recent talks on ancestral domain, says it was prepared to go to war. (JOHN MICHAEL QUIAO-INQUIRER)

Victims of 'Milenyo' urged to rise up to challenge of rebuilding

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN FRANCISCO, QUEZON—AS THIS coastal town hosting Typhoon Ilitry celebrated the feast of its patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, on Oct. 4, the parish priest called on the faithful not to wallow in grief for the loss of loved ones and the destruction of millions of pesos worth of property and farm crops from the wrath of Typhoon "Milenyo."

"We can all pass these challenges," said Monsignor Hyacinth Luistro, parish priest of San Francisco, about 302 km southeast of Manila.

Mayor Amanci Tan called on his townsmates not to lose hope and rely on their resilience and faith to overcome the tragedy.

"We will not allow Milenyo to defeat the solidarity, faith and strength of our community," Tan stressed.

Past midnight on Sept. 27, Typhoon Milenyo roared to hunter San Francisco with strong winds and heavy rains.

A few hours later, the rains and rising sea level merged and turned into flash floods that swept away the coastal villages of Brgy. Binahi—Kalbasan, Kangkong and Sentrong.

"When the water started to engulf my shack, I ordered my family to climb to the upper roof and hang on to whatever they could cling on to. Then suddenly, a rampaging current swept our house," Cecile Aldo, 29, narrated.

Amid the darkness and continuous rains, Aldo said what he could hear were only the hailing shouts for help from his wife and children.

"But I couldn't do anything," he said because as he embraced his two children inside the mayor's office.

The two children—Jovie, 8, and Gizelle Ann, 10—both survived by clinging on to a floating wood.

The next morning, Aldo found the body of his wife, who died from drowning, several kilometers away from their village.

His two other children, Julie Ann and Jovie, are still remained missing and have been pronounced dead.

Jovie said he prayed as he was being tossed by strong waves in Taytay Bay where he was swept by the strong river current.

"Through Mama, bring me to the shore now," he remembered uttering.

He said after their shack was swept away by the raging flood, he held on to a piece of wood until a man pulled him to the shore.

Tan said that at about 8 a.m., the 160 was uprooted by over 100 farm laborers in Barangay Cawayan Uno, some 8 km away from the village where the bay came from.

"He was found naked and shivering. His body was full of bruises and contusions probably from the floating wood pieces. But he was not crying," the mayor said.

Aldo reported that Gizelle Ann was rescued a kilometer away from where Jovie was found.

"I prayed to God and asked pity to bring me to the shore because I have no more parents," she recalled her prayers, thinking that her parents had both died from the flood.

Aldo requested assistance from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Please help us in rebuilding our lives for the sake of my remaining children," said the grieving father, who occasionally works as a hired fishpond helper.

Tan vowed to provide Aldo with a fishing boat and equipment and scholarship for his children.

Another boy, Lester Alcantara, 8, was found by the village search-and-rescue team atop the concrete Indanan Bridge half a kilometer away from the location of their house, Tan said.

The linemen learned that Lester was the only survivor in the Alcantara family, who lived in a shack near the river, which was also swept by the flood.

As he sipped the soda and nibbled the cookies served to him, Lester started able and did not speak a word.

The boy's parents and two other siblings all died from drowning. The youngest, a 5-month-old baby, was still missing.

Artemio Tolda, 33, of Barangay Bukang Yeni in the nearby Mulanay town, led his wife and seven children at about 2 a.m. to an abandoned old house when the water started to rise.

"We climbed coconut trees just to escape the flood. But five of my children were not able to make it to the tree for safety. Some of them probably fell down and were carried away by the strong current," he said crying.

"They were all shouting 'Papa, Papa help me,' but I don't know where to go. I could not see them. It was all dark. Until their cries for help faded," Tolda said.

Four hours after the flood subsided, he searched for his children.

He found three bodies one by one, not far from each other, in a palm pond several kilometers away from their house.

Without money for a burial, Tolda borrowed a power saw from a friends, cut a soft wood tree near their area and made coffins for his dead children.

Aldo's relatives in Quezon province sent him money to buy clothes to compensate for my grave observations in them when they were calling me for help but I was not able to. Through this gesture, I'm asking for their forgiveness and may they all rest in peace," he said in whisper.

Tolda buried the remains of his children in a public cemetery.

As many as 14 people died in Quezon, most of them from flash floods, according to the provincial disaster coordinating council.

Reports from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Quezon office said 22 persons were still missing in different parts of the province.

A total of 12,851 houses were declared "totally damaged" and 25,393 shanties as "partially damaged."

'Enough. Please, bring me to the shore now . . .'

SOME of the children survivors of "Milenyo" in Quezon province. Officials are now discussing what future these children face as aftermath of the typhoon's destruction.

Gov likened to Mike A in onslaught of libel

STA. ROSA CITY—A GMTV lawmaker yesterday joined two town mayors in the province in condemning Cavite Gov. Ayong "Ayong" Maliksi for suing the editorial staff members of three community papers for libel.

In Maliksi's filing of the libel cases, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla (2nd district, Nationalista) likened the governor to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo who had also sued at least 42 journalists for supposedly maligning his person by publishing articles critical of him.

"We have our own version of 'media-tormenting Mike Arroyo' in Cavite in the person of Maliksi," Remulla said in a text message to the reporter.

On Monday, a regional trial court judge ordered the arrest of 19 publishers and staffers of three weekly tabloids after the provincial prosecutor's office recommended the libel cases filed against them by Maliksi.

Rudy Spoto, publisher of Sulat Sine Journals and Sulat Sine Express Balita, was arrested as his grieving press office in Imus town on Tuesday.

Bailed out eventually released him after he paid the required P18,000 bail.

Remulla raised his concern over the safety of the 19 media workers and said the incident was "very saddening."

"As a former journalist myself, it saddens me that Maliksi has resorted to libel suits instead of proving his innocence of the charges levied against him," said Remulla, who once worked as a television reporter.

He is the younger brother of Maliksi's incumbent political rival, Vice Gov. Jolo de Remulla.

In separate statements, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) criticized Maliksi for suing the media workers.

Both groups called on the governor to instead drop the cases against the respondents.

Christopher Warren, president of the Manila-based IFJ, said defamation cases filed by government officials were "simply ridiculous."

"The fact that in one day, 19 senior reporters can be named in a defamation case lodged by one person is simply ridiculous," Warren said.

He added: "This ludicrous situation only adds to the already abysmal record of criminal defamation cases in the Philippines, where a journalist has received 32 years jail for libel and the President's husband is currently suing 43 journalists for defamation."

Meanwhile, the New York-based CPJ condemned the move.

"Criminal defamation charges have a deeply chilling effect on news reporting, and their use by public officials does great damage to the Philippines' rich tradition of press freedom," said Joel Simon, CPJ executive director.

"We call on the governor to drop his criminal complaint and allow the release of these journalists, who have been jailed in violation of basic press freedom standards," said Simon. (Reuben Romero, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel or Mike, displays the complaint sheet he filed to libel against Rep. Abler Peter Cayetano. He has filed at least 42 cases of libel, that, if successful, would make him probably the most defamed figure in the country today.

MALIKSI

FALL IN Love WITH YOUR FUTURE HOME!

LOYOLA Bella Vista

(02) 920-1193/ 0920-9251885

WAVE OF THE FUTURE

Benguet university to go organic

"We now see the destruction ...because of chemical-based farming..."

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—While some universities are content with their 'Habulukan Di Mabulukan' (Sandaguhan/sandaguhan) trash can as their contribution to the recycling movement, the Benguet State University is trying to become the first truly organic school in the country.

Not only does it have its own transient recycling and composting program within its campus here, it is also the first to introduce organic farming as a course.

Dr. Rogelio Gabriel, BSU president, said a shift of the university's emphasis and faculty are involved in the school's organic agriculture program, which is set to start next year.

He said the decision to go organic was prompted by the ecological problems brought about by chemical-based farming in Benguet.

"We now see the destruction of farm resources, soil and biodiversity because of chemical-based farming. There are also health problems associated with pesticides and fertilizers and slow epidemics being documented," he said.

THESE ordinary looking strawberries being cultivated at the back of the Benguet State University are certified organic, and will soon be on everyone's dinner tables by Christmas, says the campus' hard-to-get fulfillers. Benguet draws tourists and a market because of its strawberry harvests, but BSU wants to wean farmers toward organic plantations, according to Christian Dapanias, a BSU agriculture professor (in photo).

Alternative lifestyle

"The prompted us to look for an alternative lifestyle and the only way to go was organic agriculture."

Gabriel said the program invigorates not only agriculture students but also those in nursing, environment, research and education.

Macario Cadiuld, dean of the College of Agriculture, said they have begun offering organic farming as degree and non-degree courses two years ago and some of their ecological agriculture graduates have been absorbed as staff members of the program.

"The students are very receptive to the program because they know it is the only way to go," Cadiuld said.

Other projects in the program include research and development, training and extension services, production, processing and marketing of organic products within the campus, policy and advocacy, and support services and networking.

Data

Gabriel said the research and development component included creating a database for organic producers in the Cordillera and the documentation of indigenous practices on crop and livestock production that could be adopted for modern agriculture.

He said the BSU has also started drawing up guidelines for organic production of strawberries and coffee beans, and is completing the same for tomato, broccoli, mushroom and other highland vegetables.

Researchers in BSU are also into the organic control of pests and diseases as well as the identification and culture of beneficial microbes for organic crop production.

Beneficial microbes are bacteria, algae or fungi alone or in combination and they augment the availability of nutrients to the plants to give plants immunity to diseases.

Showcase

The BSU has also started a showcase garden near its agriculture building, which features seven pocket gardens for spiritual and physical healing.

The university has also established an organic demonstration farm and nursery as well as an apiary and mini eco-park within the campus.

It maintains a waterlilies, which sells herbal products to students and residents here.

The 'Habulukan/Di Habulukan' trash cans are ubiquitous within the BSU campus.

Jose Dalanday, a professor in soil science here, said they collect the biodegradable trash and turn them into compost for the school's use.

He said they produce 100 bags of compost a month from the school's trash alone. (Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE SHOW PRESENTS

GAETANO PESCE
A DESIGN SYMPOSIUM
MANUALITY & INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
3:00 P.M./OCTOBER 12, 2006 · PICC PLENARY HALL

manila now

ANC dti HYATT Pearl2

Bicol typhoon damage reaches ₱2B, says DA

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—THE Department of Agriculture has estimated the losses Typhoon "Minorat" wrought in agriculture in Bicol at ₱2 billion even as the cost of the damage was expected to climb with more reports from the field coming in.

The DA said rice farms suffered some ₱417.8 million in losses. At least 46,305 farmers dependent on the rice industry were reported to suffer loss of income.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) initially reported damages to its irrigation facilities at ₱119.8 million.

Half of the losses in rice crop was recorded at Sorsogon, the hardest hit province.

Six high value crops, that included 9,181 metric tons(mt), the DA recorded some ₱707 million in losses with some ₱132-million in damages in Albay alone.

Damages in fisheries resulted at least ₱117 million) abaca, ₱95-million and corn, ₱20-million.

In a related report, the provincial government of Camarines Sur has estimated the cost of damages to infrastructure at ₱250 million.

The Camarines Sur Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) has reported that 31 municipalities and three cities of the 21 towns have suffered varying degrees of destruction that affected 72,282 families in 334 villages.

In the aftermath of the typhoon, the provincial government have distributed 7,818 packs of relief goods to 14 towns and the city of Iriga.

The PDCC also reported five persons dead and 88 injured.

As the power lines of the Transmission Corp. (Transco) have yet to be restored in the Luzon grid, Naga City and 2 number of towns in Camarines Sur were temporarily supplied with power directly from the National Power Corp. power generation plant in Tiwi, Albay.

Emmanuel Abilca, substation engineer of the Transco here, said the power was tapped from the Nagaco's 230-kilovolt line.

In Sorsogon, the typhoon left an initial ₱48 million damage in the province's agricultural crops and ₱500 million in fisheries, the DA provincial agriculturist office (PAO) said.

Heavily damaged crops include rice, corn, vegetables, mango, bananas, banana, vegetables and other fruit-bearing trees.

PAO planning officer Eugenio Guppi said the typhoon damaged at least 4,405 hectares of agricultural land in the province.

Rice and vegetable farms incurred the heaviest damage worth ₱20 million, he said.

At least 1,528 hectares of rice farms were reported damaged by the typhoon, 488 hectares belonging to Naragba town.

Lipa City had ₱35 million in damaged banana crops and ₱180,000 in damaged hybrid corn.

Provincial agriculturist Virgilio Mercado said most of the damaged crops, such as boy trees in their reproductive stage.

Most farmers, he said, have not yet harvested these crops before the typhoon struck.

Decibel to the usual harvesting period for rice, corn, banana and vegetables in the wet season while bananas are harvested all year.

In preparations for typhoons, Mercado advised the local farmers to plant such crops in rainy seasons to be harvested in two to three months.

The market prices of bananas fell to ₱18 per kg after the typhoon before it went back to ₱45-50 per kg this week, Guppi said.

Meanwhile, around ₱300 million worth of mango and tilapia in the Taal lakeshore areas of Cavite, Talisay, Agoncillo, Alitagtag and Balayan, Batangas were damaged by typhoon "Mando" last week.

Rainy and San Nicolas were the other towns affected.

Millions also ravaged at least 1,000 fish cages operating in Taal Lake.

Guppi said it would take three to four months for operators of the fish cages to recover. Joan Escandor Jr. and Marlon Alexander Lanuza, Inquirer Southern Luzon

AT LEAST 100 trucks from the Visayas arrive at the Lagaspi Port in Legaspi City to help in operations to restore power to Albay province and the rest of the Bicol region that were battered by Typhoon "Nilonna."

Batangas evacuees won't leave yet

BALAYAN CITY—At least 20 families continue to seek shelter at the Modesto Castillo, Tarumato Arena and Barangay 2 evacuation centers in Balayan City and would do so until now by relatives who shelter in the city decides to send them back to their provinces, it was social welfare and development office said.

The families, fearful of their homes built along the riverbanks of Barangays Lucsuhin 3 at the San Juan River overflowed during Typhoon "Nilonna."

Jessie Cabrera, city social welfare and development officer, told the Inquirer that most of the families were squatters and were natives of Samar province who decided to settle on the riverbanks.

"We had repeatedly warned these informal dwellers not to build houses there due to the imminent dangers created by river overflow but they never listened," she said.

Cabrera said some evacuated families had already left to stay in houses of relatives who don't have relatives were still awaiting for the city's decision.

She said 42 of the 45 barangays in Balayan City were affected by Nilonna.

Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council chief Celia Alcantara reported last week that 432 families living in the riverbanks at Balayan City had their homes. Marlon Alexander Galvez, inquirer Southern Luzon

FAITH AND COMMERCE

The faithful who flock to the Manaoag Church in Pangasinan are greeted by vendors and rows of vendors leading to the church selling all sorts of items from religious icons to pet birds. Thousands flock to the church following reports of miracles from the Our Lady of Manaoag.

Police file raps vs 4 in murder of militant Left leader in Bohol

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY (UPDATED) — Police have filed murder charges against four men in connection with the Sept. 7 killing of Bayan provincial chair Fernan Olayvar.

The police identified Southern Marlon Bensas and Virgilio Bensas of Danao town, Neil Logronio of Buenavista town and Roldan Tejero, a native of Sinibaan town who is now residing in Danao, as the four accused.

The police named Bensas and Logronio as principals and Tejero as accomplice.

Motorcycle-for-hire driver Jonilito Ayag identified the Bensas brothers and Logronio as the gunmen who shot and killed Olayvar. Olayvar was riding in the motorcycle driven by Ayag when he was shot dead.

Ayag identified Marlon, through a picture shown to him by SPO3 Melanio Rasagaysay, while he identified Virgilio and Logronio through detectives.

In his supplemental affidavit executed last Sept. 23 in Camp Dagohoy, Ayag said he was sure that the three were the gunmen because he saw them at the vidoke house owned by Tejero the night before the ambush.

Olayvar and Ayag had spent the night at the house of Tejero prior to the early morning ambush.

"I was allowed to [Marlon Bensas a text when I noticed that he was peeping through the window of the vidoke house of (Tejero) and permitted to be viewing the lyrics of the song appearing in the TV screen of the vidoke," Ayag said in his statement.

The witness recounted the distinguishing features of the three aside Marlon who had "dark upper and lower lips," "Virgilio had "kinky hair, flesh eyebrows and dark skin" while Logronio had a "kinky unusual hair, thick eyebrows and sideburns below the chin."

Ayag said the three, along with a companion identified only as a certain Ojeng Bendilo, stayed at the vidoke house for one to two hours although they did not arrive together.

The witness added that while he did not see Bendilo at the crime scene, he believed Bendilo was "one of their companions."

Ayag also confirmed, in his supplemental affidavit, that Tejero owns the red Honda Tegiccmotorcycle with a broken taillight cover used by one of the gunmen as the getaway vehicle.

PNP provincial director Supt. Antaro Fuentes said that "a monstrous family in Danao, whose relative was executed by the [New People's Army]" allegedly on the basis of a complaint by members of the Hagpang-ub-sog-Mag-amang Bel-ason (Hubmabol) which Olayvar headed, carried out Olayvar's killing.

PHOTO TIPS continues against the killings of both activists but the murders continue. Police credibility was suffering as a result of law enforcers' failure to solve any of the crimes.

Top Subic exec says settlement stopped filing of rape raps

By Norbert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A TOP OFFICIAL OF the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said his agency would have filed a complaint against a Korean accused of raping a 23-year-old Filipino cook in Subic town but the victim did not pursue the case.

"The first thing that we wanted to do was to file a complaint but the victim did not pursue the case. She did not even answer a medico-legal report," said SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza.

"We don't want to prejudge people, anybody can go file a complaint than she was raped but we cannot establish rape without a medico-legal report," Arreza said in the hearing when asked about the measures taken by the SBMA to help the victim.

The victim, who was working as a cook for the Hanjin Heavy Industries Corp., accused Hanjin captain Yeung Ki Kwon of raping her inside the cabin of his vessel on Sept. 28.

Hanjin is the largest foreign investor in entire the Philippines this year with a commercial investment of $1 billion. It is constructing the world's largest ship building facility in the world in the Redondo Peninsula inside the freeport.

As in the case of Nicole, a Filipino who was allegedly raped by four US Marines inside a moving van at the freeport last year, Arreza said the SBMA could have extended its support for the victim if the latter had come to them.

He said the SBMA provided Nicole counseling when she asked that she be shielded from protesters coming from various groups including the media.

"If the victim had come to us and asked for assistance, we certainly would extend [support]," Arreza said.

"But if she refuses to pursue the case, it will be unfair for us to go after the accused without any evidence on our hands."

"We called the attention of Hanjin to inform them that one of their employees has a complaint lodged against [Yeung], so that they can take appropriate administrative sanctions," Arreza said.

A source close to the victim said on the night of Oct. 2, two senior representatives of Hanjin went to the victim's rented room purportedly to ask her help in finding a household help.

While they were talking, the Hanjin representatives allegedly asked the victim how much she wanted in exchange for not pursuing the case against Yeung.

The negotiations, according to the source, started at P1 million but the company representatives "offer went down to P150,000.

The victim, the source said, accepted the amount and signed a waiver.

On Oct. 3, the victim went to Metro Manila where she boarded a vessel bound for the province where her family lives. The victim's leaving Olongapo, according to the source, was part of the settlement.

"As in the case of Nicole, this case is again controversial but if the victim withdraws because the attacker is influential," lawyer Virgie Suarez-Pinlac, spokesperson of the women's group Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan (Unico Kat, said in a statement.

"The absence of political will on the part of our government to seek justice for Filipina rape victims will succeed only in emboldening foreigners to abuse our people," she said.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jim Bandaysel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

School helps parents feed pupils

By Aquilino Zonio
Malungon, Sarangani Province

IN REMOTE AREAS, IT IS NOT only the distance of the school from their homes that force grade schoolers from quitting their studies. It is also poverty.

However, in a public elementary school in sitio Landilew, Datal Tampal, a predominantly Blaan village in Malungon town, Sarangani Province, school officials have devised an antidote to alleviate the problem.

They adopted the "feed-for-work" scheme and supplemented feeding program to enhance the academic performance of tribal children in the area.

Tribal residents in Malungon largely depend on traditional farming as a main source of livelihood.

Most, if not all of them, lead a hand-to-mouth existence. Their children would often skip classes to help the family in the farm or simply because they have lost interest attending class on an empty stomach.

Food for work

Under the program, parents of the pupils of the Landilew Elementary School work at the school and get a subsidy of six cavite of rice per month until December. The rice would be divided among the parents.

The job includes clearing out the grassy portion of the school before they convert it into a farm for cashew beans.

"Planting banana in a vacant space inside the school can be of great help during economic difficulties," said Marilyn Binasiri, the project in-charge.

She said the idea of opening up a cashew plantation inside the school also drew the support of the teachers and village officials.

Today, parents, teachers and village officials are planning cashew banana together.

They have also planted about 20 mango and 100 mahogany seedlings around the school.

Aside from the food-for-work program, the school has also started a feeding program funded by the provincial government.

Loida Esperanza, who is in charge of the school, said parents, teachers and community leaders were grouped into five to feed 150 people.

Each group member brings vegetables or anything available at home which can be used as viand.

Fifteen kilos of rice are cooked during school days to feed the pupils.

Then they take their lunch together at the school.

Binasiri said this has encouraged pupils to come to school every day.

Absenteeism has become minimal. The children are becoming more attentive and show eagerness in schooling because they are not hungry," Binasiri said.

Ducks

In her report to Gov. Miguel Dominguez, Esperanza said that aside from the feed-for-work and feeding projects, the school has also started raising ducks.

She said they were hoping that through the new program, the school would earn something in the bargain.

This is also part of the school's effort to instill the value of industry, hard work, unity and patience among local residents, she said.

Esperanza said they started with 17 ducks. They take care of the ducks by dividing parents into groups. Each group would feed and watch the ducks on rotation basis.

The duck pen was built to no elevated portion just beside a brook.

A small opening facing the brook was designed to serve as a passage for the ducks to going to their "swimming pool."

Members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), and also officials with some male residents agreed to share responsibilities in securing the ducks at night.

Esperanza said the projects they started from scratch were small but they proved that **there can be big wins.**

She said it also showed that the villagers **could easier towards a brighter future.**

Guyito finds new home in Tagum

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Tagum City

GUYITO HAS FOUND A NEW HOME IN THE heart of the students and teachers of the Tagum National High School in Tagum City.

On Friday a sculpture of the boxcomic's mascot was turned over to school officials by a team from the company.

Tagum becomes the 81st destination in Mindanao of the paper's mascot.

Twenty Guyito sculptures, which were commissioned for the paper's 20th anniversary celebration last year, are being donated to 19 key town schools nationwide.

The recipient schools are those which have won the National Quiz Bee.

The Guyito version donated to Tagum was painted on by Raul Dionela.

As the Inquirer team arrived at the school's premises, a marching band played music.

"It's so wild and so warm," said Magi Garcia, the corporate affairs associate manager said of the reception.

She said it was only on Tuesday that she phoned the school's principal, Victoria Salgarino, informing her that the school was chosen as one of the recipients of the Guyito sculpture, yet, the preparation was awe whelming.

Samuel Merced, a fourth year student and photographer of the school paper "The Mirror" and "Galaw Diaw" said she initially thought that Guyito's sculpture was only for decorations.

"But when I saw it, I was amazed. It is wonderful. There are lots of painting at the back and I think these paintings describe us Filipinos," she said.

Merced aspires to become a professional photojournalist one day.

Reading campaign

Connie Salagayan, business component of Inter-manager, said the purpose of the Guyito sculpture was part of the company's campaign to draw the nation into reading.

Salagayan said an informed society is important in shaping the country's future.

The boxcomic's advocacy, she said, would be futile if the younger generation do not share the habit of reading the news and share their opinions and voice out their concerns.

Peregrino Bandayel Jr., the boxcomic's national editor, said the campaign is also aimed at reaching base with the younger users.

Nic Fernandez, also a campus journalist from another high school here, said she admired the paper's initiative in promoting readership.

Fernandez said she also wants to be a journalist.

For teacher Ellen Alferes, the boxcom is not only a source of information but also an effective tool for peace.

"We do hope that you will continue with your peace advocacy," she said.

"Whatever is the issue, the boxcom should stick only to those issues," Alferes said, reminding the paper not to twist or circumvent important facts and issue of the times that is sensitive to the public.

She said issues have a huge impact on the lives of the people.

Inquirer Mindanao Bureau Chief Nestor Alconaba told the students that the role of a journalist is to report the news even if it means being in the frontline of an ongoing conflict.

Abadia won't take blame for RSBS woes

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FORMER MILITARY CHIEF GEN. Roy Abadia has refused to take the blame for the financial woes of the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) nor would he put the blame on other former RSBS officials for the sound investment and insurance practices.

"Something went wrong somewhere. I'm for the high-profile scapegoat," said Abadia, who chaired the RSBS Board of Trustees when he was the famed Fortress chief of staff from 1990 to 1994.

He revealed he had no presiding RSBS-related guilt cast below the Guadalupe bridges.

In 1998, Abadia was recommended for prosecution by the Senate blue ribbon committee for anomalies in the management of the Social Security System.

He was also investigated by the Ombudsman, which in 2005 recommended the filing of graft charges against him, former RSBS president Jose Ramscel Jr. and seven others for the approval of an anomalous P377 million loan to Mutiplast Land Inc.

But a list provided by the officials of the pending RSBS cases before the Sandiganbayan showed Abadia was not among those facing charges.

Ramscel, a retired general who was RSBS president from 1994 to 1998, was charged with 29 counts of malversation and graft.

"If I have a case, I should know," Abadia said.

Abadia maintained that RSBS, which was created in 1973 as a pension fund for soldiers, has money due to bad investments in real estate.

P1.5B in profits

He said that during his term, the RSBS made some P1.5 billion in profit while it took out about P400 million in loans to buy real estate properties.

He said the generals and officials who ran the RSBS after him were on with the buying spree and racked up about P4.5 billion in loans so they "must-and more" golf courses, housing sites and rice land whose values crashed after the peso was hit by the 1997 financial crisis.

"At first it was okay. Then the financial crisis came in 1997. So now the RSBS is left holding these big properties that they can't develop at all. They have been trying to get out and doing well, plus a big loan to service. It had a cash flow problem," Abadia said.

He said that during his term, he put a 28 percent cap on real estate investments, but succeeding RSBS boards lifted the cap.

At present, 92 percent of the P11.6 billion remaining assets of RSBS are tied up in real estate properties and stocks, which debtors and military officials say they would have difficulty selling.

Defending RSBS

Abadia, however, defended the past RSBS officials, saying they bought the properties "while the economy is booming."

"I can't blame the board of trustees at that time because things were looking up and up, then it crashed. It was a corporate decision. They had the subject of investments to make a lot of sense," he said.

Defense and military officials have announced the RSBS would be abolished by Jan. 31 to prevent further losses and to liquidate its assets so the soldiers would get their contributions upon retirement with 6 percent annual interest.

But RSBS officials admitted the returns on RSBS' assets could not match the 6 percent interest paid on refunded contributions.

The refunded contributions is on top of the monthly pension paid to retired military personnel by the national government amounting to about P1.8-6 billion annually.

Abadia assessed the defense department's statement that the new generation fund that will be put up will be run by "professional managers," unlike RSBS.

Harassed

"That's an indictment against retired [generals]," he said.

Current RSBS executives complained that they were being unfairly harassed and accused by ordinary soldiers of "stealing" their money, when they were the ones who were elected by the RSBS' annual beneficiaries huge losses.

"We are not bankrupt. We are in the blue. Those responsible for the mismanagement have been charged. Those who are left were not the ones who squandered the money," said Col. Leo Nuad of the pensioners management department, during a staff meeting on Friday.

18-year rehab

RSBS corporate spokesperson and board member Edmundo Icliknada Command said RSBS has been on a 10-year rehabilitation plan since 2000.

He said RSBS completed last January paying off P5 billion in debts through dacion en pago (payment through assets) beginning in 2000.

Outgoing RSBS president Cesar Jayme, who assumed office in 2005, was not present during the meeting. He has so far declined requests for interviews.

Retired Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. announced Jayme's resignation effective Oct. 15.

'Don't let them take ...

From page A1

boom, a tearful Claudine Sandra insisted up her entitlement—and perhaps those of the others who passed the five-part exam held on June 11 and 12—about the intake being proposed as a means to address the looming scandal.

"I'm afraid to take the examination again. I'm afraid, not because I cheated, but because of the high level of anxiety that goes with having to go through it again," said Noralba, 21, a graduate of the Ateneo de Davao University.

She said that her parents had worked hard to put her through nursing school, and that she had done her utmost to not only pass the exam but also double it with distinction.

Sandra was responding to the question of whether the board passers would rather go through a retake or carry the cheating stigma throughout their professional life as nurses.

"There's nowhere, especially for me, to hide. I placed sixth in the exam. Let them not make away because now what I and my parents had worked hard for," she said between sobs.

Told that a retake would give her a chance to be No. 1, Sandra said: "I'm satisfied with what I have."

Another examinee being registered with the R.A. Gapuz Review Center, one of the offshoot schools implicated in the leak of test questions.

"But I did not receive any leak. If I had, all of my friends would have passed," she said.

Civil disobedience

Also at the Capitoss, the father of two board passers threatened civil disobedience through a mob of the nurses being pleased by Malacañang.

"We'll tell our children not to take the exam if [President Macapagal-Arroyo] issues the executive order on the retake. That is our right," said Dr. Raul Gregorio, an orthopedic and trauma doctor at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

He said his children—Rachel and Michael, both nursing graduates of the Philippine Women's University who both took review classes at one of the Gapuz centers—"didn't cheat."

Gregorio is one of the leaders of the officials of Parents of 2006 Nursing Board Passers.

He group and that of the board passers, the Alliance of New Nurses (ANN), maintain that the government should first wait for the ruling of the Court of Appeals on a pending petition against a retake of the June exam.

"Some personalities in the local community believe that a stigma has been placed on the board passers and the nursing profession, when in fact the only stigma is on the people who are like, certain Health Secretaries," the RSBS said in a statement.

For example, it said, the report on some hospitals not being inclined to hire the board passers has been denied by many hospital administrators and chief nurses of health institutions.

It cited another "misleading" piece of information that said the US National Council Licensure Examination could not be administered in the Philippines because of the outside.

The chief executive of the NCLEX disagreed because according to them, what they are after is the practical stability of the country, and not [the conduction of] the leakage controversy," the ANN said.

Hats o-ruuls, blogs

In Baguio City, the people who expound the cheering are now the subject of hats-o-nuuls and blogs.

HOT PAST. Ninth placer at the June nursing exams, Claudine Noralba, from World Citi College will not retake the exam even if she gets a shot to top the exam the second time around. JAY ONGKINGCO

The retake is likewise not composed of 92 examinees and a number of outgoing school deans and lecturers in Baguio. They filed the first complaint before the Professional Regulation Commission about test questions allegedly leaked by clients of the Gapuz center in the city.

The center is owned by Ricardo Gapuz, a registered nurse, who is among the promoters of the review center industry's lobbying.

Some of their—both and blogs were well-researched and tended to attack president members of the group of rebuke like lawyers.

One questioned the involvement of Cheryl Dayrit-Yangot, the group's lawyer. She is married to acting Bagiuo Vice Mayor Leandro Yangot Jr., who was among the seven bar examinees who asked the Supreme Court to nullify the test on mercantile law in the 2000 bar examinations.

An anonymous message written in Filipino and posted on the Pinoy BBS blog read: "What makes her [Dayrit-Yangot] important? She's the wife of the suicide blower of the bar exams. It is not only my thing—both of them have nothing better to do so they make up stories to become popular. It's hard to be known in the legal profession."

Protecting the passers

An e-mail to Dayrit-Yangot said the PRC should be held accountable for any escalating the scandal early enough. But it also asked the lawyer why she "did not protect" the board passers from the controversy.

"Right at the start, your stand was for 0 retake!—even when it was not we-face for the PRC to are against the examinees and others involved," the writer said, adding:

"Why did you not recommend ways that will avoid a retake, instead of using that it is quite impossible to [the] innocent [who passed the June exam]? In the 2000 bar exam, without [any] precedent, passers thought a retake was not right, so they fought [against] it and won.

"But in the cheating scandal, there is already an existing precedent, so you should have been solicitous about the passers' rights..."

But Dayrit-Yangot said her group—which includes Ruth Padilla Tingda, governor of the Philippine Veterans Association, and Mary Grace Lacsamana, morning school director of the Saint Louis University—would "not be swayed."

The group petitioned the Court of Appeals last month to compel the examinees to retake the "spoiled portions" of the board exam.

The appellate court earlier granted the University of Sto. Tomas nursing graduate's petition to bar the PRC from processing and issuing nursing licenses to the board passers, after the PRC released them to take their oath on Aug. 27.

The website Abusers did get some support from chat room users and other bloggers.

A participant in the Pinoy BBS discussion group said the website Abusers should be capped but because they had "the guts" to expose the cheating.

'Not in Cebu'

In Cebu City, the fourth placer in the May 20 examinations declared on Friday of Notre Lute Tadlo, president of the Faculty Association of the School of Nursing of the USP, that the cheating in the board exam was unknown in scope. (See story on Page A6.)

Miss Lucrece Plata said that even if the implicated review centers had branches all over the country, it did not mean that the other branches had also gotten hold of the leaked test questions.

"Probably the leakage was in Manila and Baguio, but it did not reach Cebu," said Plata, who admitted that she was one of those who took classes at the Gapuz center in Cebu for two months before the exam.

Around 500 nurses from different parts of the Visayas registered for the review center in an operator based in Cebu City, she said.

Plata said it was unfair to drag into the scandal the other nursing graduates who had reviewed at the centers.

'Sour grapes'

Cebu City Councilor Edgardo Labella, lawyer of the 1,723 board passers in Cebu who have formed the group Timak (to Tapokopan sa mga Magkaibigang Nurses Barok sa Bisaka), downplayed Tadlo's disclosure.

"I found out that most of those who had complained were flunkers of UST. The cum laude of the university also did not pass [the board exam]. Maybe they were hurt that most of the passers came from the provinces," the Cebu Thef's what we call sour grapes," Labella said in Cebuano.

He said he knew that most of the complainants were flunkers because during the Court of Appeals hearing on Sept. 14, the presiding justice asked the examinees if they had passed the exams.

Labella said he would not have commented on the issue because of the pending petition in court. He said he was compelled to do so because of Tadlo's disclosures.

He said the petitioners from UST did not mention this information during the hearing.

'Not in Bicol'

In a rally on Thursday in Bigte City, which was attended by about 200 board passers from Northern Mindanao, protesters said the retake should be held only in areas where the leak of test questions had occurred.

Examinees from Northern Mindanao passed the exams on their own effort. We did not benefit from any leak," Examiner Lanza told the hyperion.

Lanzon We joined a similar protest, crying Malacañang should base the retake only on the areas where the flaud is LOCAL. With reports from Rhommen Napalilioan, Inquirer Visayas; Rhelen Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao

'Leak was everywhere'

From page A1

shame to the country," he said.

According to Gundran, finger-pointing should take a back seat.

"How can we claim now that we can produce globally competitive nurses. [Like the ones] we had before, if this issue is not resolved in a justifiable manner? I hope Malacañang would listen to this. Let not our sense of hopelessness and despair and wasted interests cloud our duty to those people whom we have sworn to serve," he said.

Wider in scope

A wider investigation of the cheating is what three senators and another government official are calling for.

Senators Richard Gordon and Edgardo Angara said the NBI should expand its probe on the actual scope of the leak.

Malacañang wants the NBI to wrap up its probe by Monday, URT's Tadlo said. He five new witnesses from Baguio City had submitted their affidavits to the bureau.

Commissioner on Elections Democrito Mendoza said President Macapagal-Arroyo should order the NBI to probe MLE for all examinees if no Success report on the widespread leak of test questions would be proved true.

"I thought the leakage was limited to Manila and Baguio, but it now appears that it was nationwide," Mendoza said. Benefited from it. So if it is true that Team 1 and 11 were also tainted, I might recommend to the President a retake of the whole exam for all examinees," Ang said in a phone interview.

Ang is part of the Cabinet group involved in finding a solution to the scandal.

According to Tadlo, the five examinees from Baguio had submitted affidavits saying that they received leaked questions for Tests 1 and 3, covering fundamentals of nursing and maternal and child health care, respectively.

The NBI investigation has centered on testimony from other students from Baguio who said the leakage involved Tests II and V, covering medical/surgical nursing and psychiatric nursing, respectively.

Tadlo had said the leakage was not confined to Capitol Hospitals but involved other hospitals that had been set only in Lucena and in the Visayas and Mindanao.

He had also said the leak of questions for Tests I and II came from two review centers that were not under investigation.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the Senate civil service committee investigating the leak, said he would resume the hearing next week and would ask Tadlo to testify.

Tadlo said he was willing to appear at the Senate hearing.

Erasing the stigma

Angara and Gordon called for a retake of the entire exam to erase the stigma inflicted on batch 2006 and the Filipino nursing profession in general.

Gordon wrote a retake only for those who were involved in the cheating, while Angara said it should be for all, provided the government shouldered all expenses, including the transportation costs of examinees from the provinces.

But Lacson said those who had benefited from the leak should not only be prosecuted but also barred from taking another exam.

He expressed strong opposition to a retake for all.

"While I appreciate the concern of the faculty association of the UST College of Nursing to preserve the integrity of the country's nursing profession, the basic legal tenet of presumption of innocence should take the higher plane in the scheme of things," he said.

Lacson said the government should first pinpoint those responsible for the leak and those who benefited from it, and "apply the full force of the law on them."

He said the President should be sensitive to the sentiment of the poor parents of examinees who had nothing to do with the cheating.

"But all are known, they compose the big majority," he said. "I was born to poor parents and I know exactly the personal sacrifices involved here."

Whole or partial?

Angara said the choice of the five sets without the questions for Tests I and II were not tainted that questions for Tests I and II were not tainted should necessitate a retake of the whole exam.

He said only this would redeem the integrity of the Filipino nurses before the international health care industry, prior to the conferring he said. Filipino nurses were the most sought after in the world for being well trained and endowed.

"My recommendation is that the opinion of the retake, including the transportation expenses of the trainees, should be shouldered by the government," Angara said in a text message.

Gordon, who previously favored a retake of Tests II and I said: "If all the subjects [questions] have been passed to various parts of the country, then we might have to do a retake of the whole thing. But my caution, as evidence, overrules."

Gordon said the retake should only be for those who had benefited from the leak.

He said this could be determined by getting the names of all the students who received at the Gapuz and various review centers, which were previously mentioned in the NBI and Senate inquiries, and other information that had obtained advance questions.

'Really active'

Gordon said the Gapuz review center was found to have been "really active in reproducing" the leak, as indicated, he said, by the test results.

"If they 'arecard' [the document] in Baguio City, it is reasonable to assume that they ere would it in other areas around the country," he said.

Palace pleads for sobriety

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APPEALED for sobriety from camps for and against a retake of the June nursing licensure examination amid rising tension over the scandal.

"It's a complicated situation. Let's not make it more complicated than it already is by making all these allegations," said Michael Defensor, Presidential Management Staff chief of staff.

Defensor was referring to a new batch of witnesses, five nursing students from Baguio City, who had claimed that the cheating was much wider than the current focus of inquiry by the National Bureau of Investigation.

He said the President was deferring any decision on the planned retake pending the submission of the NBI report.

According to Defensor, the Bureau will have her decision entirely on the investigation results.

"It will depend on the probe, the extent of the cheating," he said.

The NBI is expected to hand in its report on Monday. Defensor does not know whether the new allegations will have to be taken into account and thus require more time for the bureau to complete its task.

"We will wait for all the facts to come in before making a decision on how to remedy the situation. It's difficult to decide based on mere allegations," Defensor said.

Malacañang has been under fire for its on-again, off-again stance on the planned retake.

Defensor said the Palace was appealing for more patience and understanding. He said the cheating scandal was a very tough one to crack.

"Palace pleads for sobriety"

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APPEALED for sobriety from camps for and against a retake of the June nursing licensure examination amid rising tension over the scandal.

"It's a complicated situation. Let's not make it more complicated than it already is by making all these allegations," said Michael Defensor, Presidential Management Staff chief of staff.

Defensor was referring to a new batch of witnesses, five nursing students from Baguio City, who had claimed that the cheating was much wider than the current focus of inquiry by the National Bureau of Investigation.

He said the President was deferring any decision on the planned retake pending the submission of the NBI report.

According to Defensor, the Bureau will have her decision entirely on the investigation results.

"It will depend on the probe, the extent of the cheating," he said.

The NBI is expected to hand in its report on Monday. Defensor does not know whether the new allegations will have to be taken into account and thus require more time for the bureau to complete its task.

"We will wait for all the facts to come in before making a decision on how to remedy the situation. It's difficult to decide based on mere allegations," Defensor said.

Malacañang has been under fire for its on-again, off-again stance on the planned retake.

Defensor said the Palace was appealing for more patience and understanding. He said the cheating scandal was a very tough one to crack.

SMART Buddy **Ang Saya!**

Pagdating Sa 25/8 Unlimited Text Ng SMART Buddy,

MILYON-MILYON Ang Lamang!

PinakaMARAMING ka-Text sa pinakaMALAKING network!

Wala pang limit ang pagtetext mo! Enjoy Unlimited SMART-to-SMART texting for only P15/day. Register lang, wala ng 24 hours na hintayan.

Denomination	Validity
Php 15	1 day
Php 30	2 days
Php 60	4 days

To register, text <amount> to 258
Ex. 15 to 258

Registration is FREE from 6AM-6PM and 10PM to 6AM.
P1.50 service load must be maintained to enjoy this service.

Promo period from October 1 - November 2, 2008. Not valid for SIM cards with 258 service load.

Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Dito ka na sa pinakasulit na Unlimited text!

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Tell us your hotlines: inquirer.net/namayan/city/message in 2000 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: ge_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Emergency in Makati City? Dial 168

(L-R) CMAR Ervin Binay, Makati Command's supervisor: "What we are after is to have the 911 system here."

24-hour emergency response network launched on Sept. 11

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AT THE TOP FLOOR OF THE 32-STORE Makati City Hall—standing like a sentinel over the city—is the financial capital's most expensive government office to be set up so far.

This is where the city's version of the Domestic "911," the Makati Command, Control and Communication Center or C3, is situated—a P30 million facility which aims to provide quick response to any emergency within the city.

The estimated response time to any call for help made to 168, the quick-dial number: Five minutes flat.

"What we are after is to have the 911 system here. With the 168 program, we can in response everything and at the same time, we can divide labor easily. When you summon all the (emergency response) services, you could distribute labor and you would know which one to call," said Councilor Arjo Erwin Binay, concurrent C3 supervisor and son of the Makati mayor.

C3 links up the city's medical and protective services: The Makati Police Station, Makati Fire Department, Makati Rescue, Opplan 168 Makati 168Mak), the Makati Disaster Coordinating Council and the local government offices on environmental services, engineering, public services and social welfare.

After months of testing and fine-tuning, Makati Command started operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week last Sept. 11, a date chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in the United States—a calamity the which the city hopes to avoid by building up its emergency response and management capabilities.

First of its kind

Binay said the facility is the first of its kind in Metro Manila that is funded by a local government.

"Makati is a model city and almost everything that we do here is replicated in other cities. So we have taken it upon ourselves to be at the forefront," said the councilor, also the brains behind the multi-awarded Makati Server team.

A massive undertaking that took two years to set up, C3 boasts of the best technology and equipment necessary to meet the demanding task of emergency management.

To get into the Makati Command headquarters, all personnel must first undergo electronic verification of their thumbprints.

CONTINUED A12

GMA 7 TV news reporter killed in Nova road mishap

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A TV NEWS REPORTER WAS killed in a vehicular accident in Novaliches in dawn yesterday.

Ian Campilan, of GMA 7, sustained serious injuries when the car he was driving collided with a bus on Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City at around 5:30 a.m., a traffic investigator said.

PSI. Ferdinand Pagliawan said the 28-year-old reporter was declared dead by doctors at San Lazaro Hospital in Novaliches nearby but bystanders

Pagliawan added that Campilan's car, a Toyota Corolla, smashed into a Metro bus bound for Sta. Cruz, Manila.

According to reports from radio station dzBB, the reporter was on his way to Bulacan when the incident happened.

Pagliawan reported that the bus driver, whom he identified as Irenio Cruz de Vera, 29, surrendered to authorities immediately after the incident.

He said De Vera claimed the reporter's car suddenly appeared in front of his bus.

De Vera would undergo testing for alcohol or drugs, the policeman added.

He would also be charged with homicide and damage to property, Pagliawan said.

According to GMA 7's news department, Campilan, a resident of Mandaue, Cebu City, first worked with Bombo Radyo affiliate prior to joining the Cebu bureau of Technology.

He covered the MV Sea Star 6 Korea tragedy in December 1999 before he was assigned to the national news beat for the radio station's news center in Makati City.

Campilan also covered the Amnesty and Mindanao beats, the impeachment trial and subsequent January 2001 uprising that led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

From Bombo Radyo, he moved on to NPO 9 where he worked as a reporter for two years before joining GMA News in June 2004.

Campilan was the eldest of six children and was reported to be the family's sole breadwinner.

The reporter's body would be brought to Cebu City where his family is based.

THE REPORTER'S car, a Toyota Corolla, which collided with a bus. Campilan was reportedly on his way to Bulacan when the accident happened.

Heavy traffic on Edsa; stay at home, says MMDA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MORE EDSA TODAY OR BETTER stay at home.

Major repairs being carried out on some portions of the main thoroughfare's southbound lane have been causing heavy traffic since Friday night.

But the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) assured motorists that the repairs would be finished by 5 a.m. tomorrow.

Passable tomorrow

"It will already be passable in emergency by 5 a.m. on Monday," MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director Angelito Vergel de Dios told the business over the phone yesterday.

Concrete road refreshing or being done on Commonwealth and New York Streets in Cubao, Quezon City and in Guadalupe, Makati City, he said.

Alternate route

He advised motorists bound for the southern part of Metro Manila to take the Mandaluyong-Makati Bridge to avoid traffic.

"If they are going to some important business, they should take that bridge. If not, it would be better if they stayed at home to lessen the volume of traffic along Edsa," he suggested.

BUSED crawling along Edsa as far as the eye can see due to road repairs. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority says the roads will be completed by tomorrow. JOAN BONDOC

Metro police distribute book on surviving in urban jungle

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION on possible carnapping and gangs which could be lurking in your neighborhood? Want to know what to do in the face of danger?

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has produced 3,000 copies of a 22-page booklet containing information on how residents in Metro Manila can survive in the urban jungle.

Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr., NCRPO community relations director, said the booklet was produced by the police to help the residents in barangays and schools in the metropolis.

Cruz said that being the front-liners of the Philippine National Police in Metro Manila, the NCR-PO's priority are eradicating illegal drugs, clearing streets of terrorists and arresting kidnappers, bank robbers and car thieves.

Coming up with the Crime Prevention Tips booklet was in line with its responsibility of policing the metropolis, he added.

"Solving crimes and increasing police visibility are not enough. They are purely reactive. What we want is to reach residents how to take care of themselves and avoid being victims of crimes," Cruz said.

He added that the booklet was not only aimed at educating residents of Metro Manila but also their relatives and friends from the provinces. It can also come in hands for nationwide, foreign and local tourists visiting the metropolis, he said.

The booklet enumerates the various robbery groups—the "Tip it Gang," "Lagbu Barya Gang," the "Basbol Basbol Gang," and the "Break-Isa-Isaan Gang"—operating in Metro Manila. It also explains in detail their modus operandi and the areas where they operate.

The manual also contains suggestions on how to prevent robbers from breaking into one's house or commercial establishment, how to detect possible explosive devices and what to do during bombing incidents and bomb threats.

"Most of the people are not aware of how to conduct themselves in times of emergency. The book also constantly reminds our readers that the worst thing they can do is to fight their attackers," Cruz explained.

The manual also discusses drug abuse and how parents and teachers can protect their children and students from illegal drugs.

Cruz added that they are working on updating the manual and improving its contents and later publishing it under the title "How to Survive the Concrete Jungle."

MetroBriefs

Suspected robber killed

A SUSPECTED robber was killed while two of his victims were injured during a holdup incident in a passenger jeepney before midnight on Friday in Taguig City. Case investigator SPO2 Jessie Corrigan identified the suspect as John Lala, the victim, Felipe Dia, was also in the jeepney while Lester Bernardo sustained a cut in the hand. Initial investigation disclosed that Lala is said to be the suspect boarded the jeepney on the East Service Road near Gate 3-1 of Bonifacio Global City (Fort Bonifacio), at around 11:45 p.m. Friday. After declaring a holdup, Lala and a passenger figured in a drug deal over the latter's bag, prompting a commotion. PFC Trinidad Rajindi, who was also a passenger, drew a warning shot. Taguiban took out a knife and fought with Rajindi, prompting the policeman to shoot him. The suspect died on the spot while Dia was hit by a stray bullet. Jocelyn R. Uy

Still waiting for a reply

DEPUTIZED BARANGAY officials have renewed their appeal to the Manila government to allow them to enter the Arroceros Forest Park so they could care for trees that were damaged by typhoon "Karding." Regina Paterno, president of park caregiver Ahimsa Foundation, said they have yet to receive Mayor Lito Atienza's response to their request. She added that she is hesitant to be another letter to Ahimsa, considering their appeal. Where they organized a tree-planting activity including students from the University of the Philippines, to ensure safety from any of the ensuing typhoons. Paterno lamented that they have been continuously denied access to the park by security guards reportedly under the orders of Atienza. "The security officers claimed they have specific orders not to allow members of our group and the students under the park," Paterno added. She also said that it has been the group's mission to preserve the historical park, which was declared as the Pearl of the Orient Park by the city government. "It's the only surviving urban forest in Manila, so we want to save whatever can be saved," she added. Tarra C. Quismo

Free clinic day

SOME 2,000 manicurists, spatricians and their families received quality care from doctors and personnel of St. Luke's Medical Center during the hospital's "free clinic day" last week. The medical and dental missions were conducted on the Bonifacio Global Cities grounds during a program that marked the 16th year of St. Luke's medical outreach program. The new structure underwent free consultations, medical, dental or surgical procedures, as well as drugs, vaccines and therapeutic services. Before the conduct of the free clinic, Dr. Gloria Nagar Feliciano-Valenzuela Jr. and Robert Kuan, chair of the hospital's board of trustees, formally opened the free clinic with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. "Good health and affordable health care are available in Bonifacio City," said Valenzuela. The mayor also expressed his commitment by increasing the city's investment in primary health care. JR Uy

Emergency in Makati City? Dial 168

From page A13

Inside its separate call-taking and dispatching rooms, top-of-the-line computers are brought to life by a sophisticated software that was specifically made for the command center.

User-friendly system

The sophisticated software makes use of a user-friendly system that guides the caller, call taker, dispatcher and emergency personnel every step of the way.

"For example, there is an emergency call. The call taker would first the call to the dispatcher, then the incident is classified. Is no need a doctor? Or should we just refer the incident to the barangay? Then we determine which responding unit is closest," Bitay explained.

At the heart of the system is a database of residential phone numbers, which CI personnel are gradually encoding from telephone directories. When a call is received, the number automatically registers on a detailed street map of Makati, allowing the call taker to locate the source of the call.

The system also works as a safeguard against pranksters.

"We are only beginning to use the system so it can't capture a large volume of calls yet. It's smaller in real time right now that it's there. When they (people) realize that service is fast, then people would start using it," Bitay said.

Alternate numbers

Besides 168, CI also receives emergency calls through its other hotline numbers: 8705 9201, 8705 9202 and 8770 9201. Only calls coming from within Makati, however, would be entertained.

Bitay said recording of telephone numbers is halfway through, as each one has to be verified, specifically the owner's name and address. CI personnel also plan to encourage residents to have their unlisted phone numbers registered strictly for emergency purposes.

"So even if you are in a severe emergency and you cannot speak on the phone, we would see on the map where the call is coming from and immediately send a responder," he added.

Through its records management capacity, the multitasking software could also be used to compile data on each emergency response for later analysis.

"Through data collection, we could now determine, for instance, crime-prone areas or places with high incidence of drugs cases and we have information that can be used for policy decisions," Bitay said.

In the future, the software could even collect data on people, including their criminal records, personal background, photograph and even fingerprints.

Also collected on the virtual map are the location of at least 30 response vehicles equipped with 4-in rear with lava box. These include police patrol cars, vehicles of the Department of Public Services, Makati ambulances, Makati Rescue's emergency vehicles and its multi-million-peso rescue truck.

The system can track down each vehicle's move and immediately know if it has gone beyond city limits or has turned off its beacon.

"We can determine what is the nearest unit to the location of an emergency. At the same time, we can determine the time they arrive on the scene. We can actually see them on the screen while they are moving," Bitay said.

CI's main dispatching area has a projection wall and here large flat television screens where personnel can switch on the virtual map and view calls and response information at any given time.

Ready for 'the big one'

The display monitors can be seen from a glass-paneled war room, where the city's emergency managers can brainstorm on response procedures in case Makati is hit by "the big one," said Bitay, whether it be a powerful earthquake, a deadly bomb attack or a strong typhoon.

Dispatching is meanwhile trafficked through two integrated radio consoles, fitted with a touch screen for quick access to the nearest responding unit. Juliet Aguilar, among the senior members of the CI team, said the consoles come in one radio communication coming from different frequencies.

CI is manned by at least 48 personnel, including call takers, dispatchers, a police officer and fire official, who work in three eight-hour shifts throughout the day. Because of the nature of their job, they are given monthly stress debriefings to maintain their emotional and psychological health, Bitay said.

Rigid training

Rich considers City Hall ranked responsibility for CI, the facility's personnel were ensured beforehand on handling emergency calls, from a fire and fire incidence, to medical emergencies.

Bitay said CI personnel also underwent first aid seminars so they can give immediate guidance to a caller in need of medical attention while waiting for responders to arrive on the scene.

City Hall is currently looking for a director who can handle emergency management for Makati's Command. Bitay said they have yet to find a person who has both the background and field experience necessary to head the office.

While the system in place, CI is gradually moving in the second phase of making its presence known, he added.

In the coming months, Makati Command would also install video monitors at major intersections to provide the county with traffic information as well as to give those manning it a view of anything happening anywhere in the city.

Eyes everywhere

Cameras to be installed would be able to zoom in—allowing them to capture faces and the plate numbers of vehicles—and to pan, to follow any moving target.

"It will help us in getting traffic information and, for instance, motorcycles involved in a robbery. If they happen to pass through access [with video cameras], then we could zoom in, to look at the plate number and later trace it," Bitay said.

Also under the second phase of the project implementation is the automatic routing of all emergency calls to police and fire stations and other police service numbers to CI for centralized call taking and dispatching.

"The challenge for us now is for people to again have trust in 168, because for the longest time, it has been used as the number to call to report problems about garbage or power outages. We have to shift the use of the three-digit number to emergency purposes," said Bitay.

PLUTTING together the P28-million Makati Command, Control and Communication Center took two years, says Bitay.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail to global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

Time to your feedback:
inquirer.gp.opinion@yahoo.com
to 5320 (Globe) or 684 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be contracted to ensure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

They are making music like they never left home

By Christian V. Esguerra

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA—They're humming popular Pinoy love songs "Hinud-nilo" and "Dahil Sa'yo" in this bustling international airport, south of Seoul.

Koreans, as well as Japanese and Russians, who comprise the biggest foreign communities in what is now South Korea's second largest city and summer capital, have also evidently taken on "Paano," the song popularized by Sharon Cuneta and Piolo Pascual in "Paano Kung wala ka na, Paano ba ang mag-isa ..."

Of course, the all-time favorite Pinoy song here and in other northeast Asian cities is still Freddie Aguilar's "Anak," a parent's lament about a child gone astray.

Credit for popularizing Original Pilipino Music in the region goes to the Pinoy musicians who perform in many hotels and music lounges to patronize resorts in Busan, a modern metropolis of four million people, one recently featured in the Hyatton Hotel's Geraldo Bar where two Pinoy musicians—Alvin Ondoy, 36, and Leo Abiete, 35,—are making waves.

'Anak' most requested

Abiete, a native of Cebu who has been making the rounds of Korean hotels since 1996, says "Anak" is so popular that they usually get requests for them to sing it at least three nights in a week. The crowd listens intently, then breaks out in thunderous applause at the end of the song, he reports.

Leo, a long-time band singer in Baguio who arrived here in 2001, adds that now other Pinoy songs are gaining fans in Busan, which hosted the 2002 Asian Games and the 2003 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

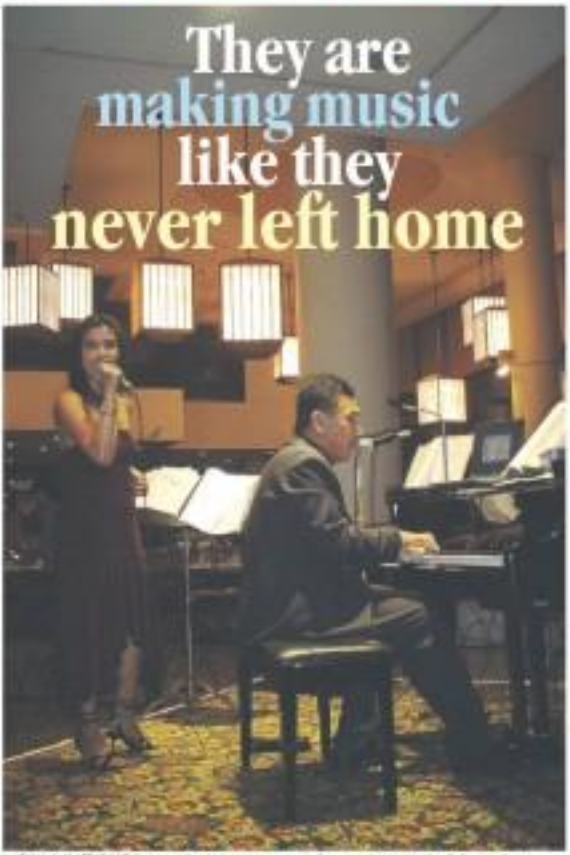
Pinoy musicians get competition from Russian and Bulgarian singers, among others. But while theirs Filipino performances are more flexible in their musical vocabulary and are able to pick up foreign languages more easily, probably because of the inherent richness of their mother tongue.

Their success secret, in fact, is that aside from popular Pinoy songs, Alvin and Leo can also sing songs in many styles in foreign tongues—Spanish, Italian, French, Japanese, Cantonese, Chinese, Japanese, and, of course, Korean. And when it comes to non-Hindu Western favorites, like the songs of Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Luther Vandross, Mariah Carey, Michael Bolle, or The Corrs, the Pinoy singing duo come out tops.

Versatile

Abiete's fluid pants can't get enough of Alvin's soothing voice which, at times, sings like Ewan McGregor's, especially when he performs on the piano; a laptop is found to assist to his musical arrangements.

Leo's a dead-ringer for our own Lani Misalucha. She can shift effortlessly from soul, R&B, and jazz to pop ballads and disco songs.



MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS. Pinoy musicians Alvin and Leo are star performers at the Marriott Hotel's Carmelita Bar.

The two were drawn to this cold and distant country for basically the same reasons—one professional, the other economic.

"Yes, it pays better here, but we're just as driven by our passion for music," Alvin says. "We love performing and making people happy with our music."

Life is tough in the Philippines even for talented and driven musicians like Alvin and Leo. There's too much competition among so many highly gifted singers, all vying for taken slots in small bars and restaurants, they agree.

Single mother

"Back home, singers get paid as low as P200 to P300 for a night's performance," Leo laments in Filipino. It's hard to support oneself or a family on such a meager amount. Leo recalls nights in the mountain city of Baguio when she would move from one bar to another in one night, just to be able to bring home a decent wage. She's a single mother to a 11-year-old boy.

"There's a deluge of young musicians, mostly students. The industry is crowded," adds Alvin, who works to support a wife and two young boys, aged 8 and 1, while helping a nephew and two sisters through college.

Performing abroad provides a window of opportunity for the likes of Alvin and Leo.

"They're very appreciative here and it's easier to make them happy," Alvin says of hotel guests in Korea.

In Alvin and Leo, foreigners don't see a "Filipino" singing clan, but simply two people creating good music together. Leo says their being foreigners surfaces only when they perform foreign language songs, which they specifically practice for, say, a Romanian or Italian guest. And as their crowds clap, nerve fail to bring the house down.

Rapport with audience

"We always prepare a song for different foreign guests and they are usually surprised to hear two Filipinos perform song songs in their language," she says.

Leo and Alvin also make it a point to keep up to date. "The moment a song becomes popular over the radio, we practice it right away," he when a guest requests a new song, they know it.

Their rapport with the audience has helped the duo keep their jobs in top Korean hotels.

Alvin and Leo, however, don't intend to stay in Korea forever.

Alvin says he is giving himself until age 40 before he returns to Cebu City for good. There, he plans to set up a chicken farm while enjoying the full-time company of wife Michelle and their boys.

Leo says she is just finishing her contract and plans to return to the Philippines and set up a small business, too. She's confident that she will probably come home and settle down with her Australian boyfriend of four years. She can't wait to be with her son, who, at 13, is entering a crucial phase.

For all their hard work, the last thing Alvin and Leo want is to be faced with attempted problems. Children—like the predicament of the unfortunate parent in Freddie Aguilar's hit song "Anak."

Most requested are 'Anak,' 'Minud-nila,' 'Dahil Sa'yo' and 'Paano' but they also sing the songs close to the hearts of foreign guests

Pinoys warned: Don't get lost in translation

By Isabel T. Escoda
Contributor

JAPAN HAS FINALLY AGREED TO allow Filipino nurses and caregivers to work in their country. The permission, reported in most news, sounds like it was given grudgingly, which it is true, given that their country has long been guarding large numbers of visas to Pinay female "entertainers" (otherwise termed "sex workers").

It seems Japan has finally seen that occasional Pinay nurses have long been working efficiently in the ER and Canada.

Its agreement to take in 400 nurses and 600 caregivers from the Philippines was signed in Helsinki, Finland, during the recent Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem)...something Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has understandably been making much of.

One proviso says the Pinays will be required to study Nippongo for six months before receiving on-the-job training. This made me think of what a columnist for London's Financial Times wrote recently about the difficulties of learning to use the Kanji and Kana.

His appreciation of the 10,000 or so Chinese characters that Japanese must learn to read a newspaper was not exactly flattering. He wrote that the Japanese system of writing was "the most cumbersome ever devised by the human mind."

The IT columnist said the Japanese themselves generally have difficulty mastering English, and he asked "Why do the Japanese, such brilliant imitators in so many fields, struggle with English?" His question: a Japanese writes who and then many of his compatriots use the lack of English knowledge as "a badge of honor, evidence (as indeed it is) that Japan retained nationalism." This is certainly very interesting, because it makes one ponder why it is that so many Chinese, and other Asians, are keen to polish their English. That surely doesn't indicate a lack of nationalism but is merely a pragmatic smile to master the universal language of English needed to today's world.

With Japan experiencing a large growth of its graying population, and fear of their own people wanting to do the menial work involved in caregiving, Tokyo has obviously been forced to turn to developing countries to supply the demand.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES. Japan is ready to accept 400 Filipino nurses, 600 caregivers

Mastering Nippongo should be a breeze compared to Cantonese

First time

The Agence France Presse reports that "While small in number, [Pinoy repatriates] marked the first time that Japan, which rarely accepts immigration, has accepted foreign workers as part of a bilateral trade pact. If they obtain Japanese state licenses for the jobs within three [little] years for nurses, four years for caregivers, the Filipinos will be allowed to work in the country on a long-term basis."

Referring to Japan's importation of Pinay nurses and caregivers, the Asian Wall Street Journal, in its editorial "Greetings, Gaijin," remarked that Japan should indeed provide employment opportunities to people from developing countries because "It's a virtuous cycle that benefits everyone."

Tone down inborn liveliness

It pointed out that foreigners have to live in Japan for a decade before being able to obtain foreign residency, and that among its requirements is the emotion stipulating that the foreigner "does not invite social criticism." So perhaps, in order to adjust to that conservative society, the outwardly chirpy Pinays will have to tone down the inborn liveliness.

Learning Nippongo will surely be a breeze for the new migrant workers, if one compares it to learning Cantonese, which must be one of the hardest languages in the world to master. The linguists who ponder on such things consider difficult language of all those spoken on earth. Some call Serbo-Croat the toughest, while others say it's German. There are those who point to an obscure African language where speech is composed of extreme clickstone and tongue clicks.

Toughest language

I agree about German...unless one do you find several words run together to indicate something fairly simple, as in "verpeguptdichdenwiegberg" ... which means "coming in reverse with the [car]"? But as far as I'm concerned, Cantonese is the toughest nut to crack.

In Hong Kong, it's the non-Pinay who can speak Cantonese fluently. It's simple enough to memorize the words in romanized form, but using the right tones for the words is something else. For many years, when newly settled in the colony, I'd ask a taxi driver to take me to the ferry pier for one of the outlying islands where I lived and was usually met with incomprehension. "Cheung Chau" looks simple enough to say, but the singsong tones required to pronounce the words can be disorderly-going to the temporary release home; just harassed for music languages.

Wrong tones

There's the tale of a Western lady who came away to practice her Cantonese among the natives in a city-to-dong, practicing every[illegible] she met. After living on, during her conversation, she couldn't understand why the Chinese were shocked, then laughed uproariously when she told them her businessman husband was constantly flying on planes. She had the wrong tone and the words came out sounding like "shooting planes"—which in the Cantonese imagination be matter-boring!

Pinay migrant workers who have married Chinese men may have better chances of learning the language properly by Cantonese their husbands are keen to improve their Pinay wives' command of more Tagalog. But by and large, the language can defeat anyone who tries to remember all the confusing variations and word variations that can totally trip up the most assiduous student.

Sometimes on flights to Cebu or Manila, I marvel at the Pinays conversing flu-ently with their Chinese husbands in their language. But I've seldom heard traveling Pinay wives talking Cantonese with their Hong Kong husbands (turned they are judgin Tagalog). As I said, it's a difficult language to learn.

The WORLD

Edna Leonora B. Bueno

N. Korea said to be 'ready' to test A-bomb in coal mine

BEIJING—NORTH KOREA IS "MORE OR LESS READY" TO conduct a nuclear test deep inside an abandoned coal mine but might hold off it can win concessions from the United States, a Chinese source briefed by Pyongyang said on Friday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a device would be detonated about 2,000 meters (5,500 feet) inside a mine near the border with China in the north of the country.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il had issued instructions that the test should "not excessively exit," Shirzad Pashiki, a recently pro-Iranian Kurdish reminder noted.

"They are more or less ready," the source told Reuters after speaking to North Korean officials. He did not give information.

His comments would not be independently confirmed, but South Korea newspapers reported that although there were thousands of mine shafts that could be used for a test, Seoul and neighboring countries were closely monitoring three or four sites.

The Hankook Ilbo newspaper said the most likely site was the administrative district of Kilju in North Hamkyong province.

This area the area mentioned in a report by US television network ABC news to Angus Hau an American intelligence agency had observed suspicious vehicle movements as a suspected nuclear test site.

Hankook Ilbo said a test would not have to take place in Kilju since there are so many disused mine shafts, and named the districts of Hupsh-ami Shilung in the province of Jagang, which shares a border with China, as potential sites.

"Finding the test site beforehand would be akin to finding a needle in the (Han River)," it said.

The Chinese source said Pyongyang "may not necessarily test," and would hold off if Beijing and other Asian powers could convince the United States to talk sanctions and open dialogue.

Nine Japanese Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe is due to visit China on Sunday and South Korea the next day for summits to repair ties frayed by frosty ever their wartime past. But North Korea's nuclear threat will probably top spot on the agenda.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun visits China, North Korea's closest ally and major donor, next Friday.

The Hankook will let nuclear unless they can talk the United States into changing its attitude and respecting North Korea's sovereignty," the Chinese source said.

Pyongyang has boycotted six-country talks aimed at persuading it to shut down its atomic arms program for almost a year since the United States froze its assets in a Macau bank.

Washington has said the move is part of a crackdown on suspected North Korean counterfeiting, money laundering and drug-trafficking. Reuters

SOUTH KOREAN soldiers cross along the barbed-wire fence as they patrol the border line in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas at Panmunjom, north of Seoul, in this April 8, 1996 photo. AFP

Amish girl, trying to save the others, asked to be shot first

AMISH at their way on the funeral procession of Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 13, a victim of the Amish School shooting. AFP

CHESTNUT HILL, PENNSYLVANIA—UNDER A cold, windy drizzle, the Amish drove in horse and buggy to a burial and cemetery Friday to bury the fifth of five girls shot to death by an intruder as new details emerged of heroism inside their schoolhouse.

Two of the survivors of the shooting told their parents that 13-year-old Marian Fisher, one of the slain girls, asked to be shot first, apparently hoping the younger girls would be let go, according to Leroy Zook, an Amish dairy farmer. His daughter, Emma Mae Zook, was the teacher who ran from the schoolhouse to a farm to summon police.

Amish bishop David Lapp said Marian's younger sister Barbie, who is recovering from gunshot wounds, provided one of the accounts.

"Her sister remembers it, Barbie," Lapp said.

Trooper Lieutie Quinn said investigators have not confirmed any interview that ran from the story but also said the investigation is incomplete.

Parents of two of the surviving victims have also told Leroy Zook that the children questioned Robert after the school left.

"They just asked him why he's doing this. He said he's angry with God," Zook said.

On Friday, more than 40 buggies splashed along country roads behind a funeral hearse car, cars mounted state troopers and a couple with the body of 12-year-old Anna Mae Stoltzfus on board, according to AP.

Four other girls killed during Monday's shootings, two of them sisters, were laid to rest Thursday at the same hilltop graveyard.

All roads into United Mines village were again blocked, and the funeral procession, like those Thursday, passed the home of Charles Carl Roberts IV, the 32-year-old milk truck driver who took the 10 girls, ages from 13, hostage, tied them up and shot them before killing himself.

One of the surviving girls was reported to be in grave condition. The county coroner said he had been told she was being taken off life support, but her location was not known Friday. The four other girls remain hospitalized.

Funerals for Fisher, 13, Naomi Rose Ebersol, 7, and sisters Mary Liz Miller, 8, and Lena Miller, 7, were held Thursday.

New details also emerged Friday about the scene outside the schoolhouse.

Lapp, the builder, said he was told there was a gunman at the school and arrived before police, stopping a few hundred yards from the school.

"It was a trailing of helplessness," Lapp said.

He saw all the boys in the school escape through a side door, jump a fence and then huddle together in a meadow. Lapp watched police swarm the building and board the gunman.

"My just started shaking. There were scrambled on by then," he said.

There were about 15 boys, ages 6 to 12, in the school.

"They're still in shock ... They have this glazed look in their eyes," coroner Dr Daniel Kirk, whose three granddaughters were in the school, said earlier this week. "They'll heal, but it will affect them their whole lives." AP

WorldBriefs

Increasing pressure, Russia deports Georgians

MOSCOW—Russia deported two citizens of Georgia on Friday as a wave of punitive measures against Georgian migrants and businesses grew, prompting criticism that the government is carrying out an ethnically motivated campaign of harassment. The deportations came at the end of a week of political and diplomatic conflict between Russia and Georgia that began with the arrests of four Russian military officers for espionage and that has drawn little signs of easing despite the efforts by the Kremlin, which had already slapped an embargo on Georgian wine and mineral water, to step up the pressure. Russia has also cut off transport links with Georgia, searched and closed cafés and restaurants, including two more cafés and two of Moscow's better-known Georgian restaurants, arrested large numbers of officials and issued regulations that, at least on paper, outlaw work by Georgians. Russia has also moved to suspend imports from the nation's wine industry, which is by far the largest in the former Soviet Union, presumably to help it identify any illegal immigrants, prompting a complaint from an education official, Lyubov Kezina. AFP

White House side quits over lobbyist ties

WASHINGTON—The latest casualty in the scandal surrounding lobbyist Jack Abramoff was a top aide to presidential political strategist Karl Rove who once worked for the disgraced influence peddler. Susan Ralston stepped down Friday from her post as a special assistant to President George W. Bush. A congressional investigation into Abramoff's contacts with Republicans and had accepted tickets to sporting events and executive favors from Abramoff. Corruption and scandal are major issues going into the Nov. 7 congressional elections, in which Republicans are trying to keep their majority in Congress. Ralston's resignation followed accusations that her contacts with Abramoff showed he was closer to Rove and Bush than the White House has been willing to acknowledge. AP

4,000 Iraqi cops killed in line of duty—US general

BAGHDAD—Around 4,000 Iraqi policemen have been killed performing their duties over the past two years, a US commander in charge of training the force said, adding that another 8,000 have been wounded. Major General Joseph Peterson, who commands the US training teams standing up the fledgling force, maintained that, despite the losses, great strides have been made in transforming the country's security forces. Police are often the first to be targeted in bomb attacks, which their unarmored sports-utility vehicles are particularly vulnerable to. AFP

US says it has won agreement to penalize Iran

LONDON—THE UNITED STATES SAID IT had won agreement on Friday from the other five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany to seek sanctions against Iran over its refusal to shut down a nuclear enrichment program that could be used to build bombs.

While the State Department hailed the agreement, which was reached at a meeting here of senior officials from the six nations, American diplomats conceded that there could still be long and difficult negotiations over what penalties to impose and their timing.

Indeed, some of the other nations here—Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia—insist such an explicit statement after the meeting. In the past, China and Russia have both said they would be wary of sanctions against Iran despite its defiance of international demands to end nuclear enrichment.

R. Nicholas Burns, the American undersecretary of state for political affairs, said after the meeting that whatever the other nations' diplomatic language, "What we've got is an agreement to go to the Security Council" to punish Iran.

But he admitted the issue was far from decided. "I think there's going to be a spirited debate about what kind of sanctions should be agreed to."

Burns was the senior American negotiator at the talks for the issue of the day because Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who would have been joining him, stayed home her military jet—said in explanations—developed mechanical problems, stranding her in the northern Australian city of Darwin since last Sunday.

The German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who attended the London meeting, may have come closest to the American statement when he said EUF ministers on Friday that "If there is no new decision from inside the Iranian leadership, there is at present no alternative to having the Security Council deal with this conflict."

But the London meeting was called after the European Union foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, setting on behalf of the six nations, reported this week that he had reached a statement in negotiations with the Iranians over curtailing their nuclear program. AFP

Text-sex scandal may cause GOP to lose poll

WASHINGTON—OPPONENTS DEMOcrats are reaping a surge in popularity ahead of key US elections next month on the back of a congressional sex scandal that has left Republican leaders reeling, according to polls released Friday.

But President George W. Bush has again backed House of Representatives speaker Dennis Hastert who has faced calls for his resignation over the party leadership's handling of the scandal.

Polls released by Time magazine and USA Today indicated that the Democrats now have a widening lead in opinion polls ahead of the Nov. 7 midterm elections for the House of Representatives and several state governorships.

Time and the poll suggested a crowded race, hard-e-mails and instant text messages sent by former representative Mark Foley to teenage Congressional pages had "destroyed" the Republicans' chances of retaining control of the Senate and House after Nov. 7.

The Democrats need to win six seats in the 100-member Senate and 15 seats in the 435-member House to take the two chambers.

The margin has risen about 10 percent of the 1,012 people it asked this week were aware of the scandal and believe Republican leaders tried to cover it up. One quarter said it made them less likely to vote Republican.

Among registered voters, 54 percent said they were more likely to vote Democrat and 39 percent favored Republican. Time said the margin has jumped 11 percentage points from a similar poll in June.

A USA Today/Gallup poll of six key states indicated that Democratic voters are eager to take control of the House in the election as the number of Republican-held seats where the Democrats could win has grown.

The scandal and worsening violence in Iraq were undermining Republican support, experts said. Time also said that there was a growing problem for the Republicans as only 29 percent of voters supported Bush's policy in the strife-torn country.

Despite demands from some conservatives for Hastert to step down from his position, Bush emphasized the House speaker to express support for the embattled Republican leader, the White House said.

During the conversation, Bush "said he supports the speaker," according to Dana Perino, a White House spokesperson.

Hastert has faced pressure to resign after it emerged that a powerful conservative Republican leader found out about Foley's messages and why they did not act earlier.

Foley, resigned his Florida seat last Friday over the sexually explicit messages he is sending Congress pages.

Perino said Bush thanked Hastert Thursday "for making a clear public statement that the speaker took responsibility." The president also "said he appreciated how, when the leadership learned of the hard e-mails, they swiftly moved to make it clear to Representative Foley that he had to resign his seat and they referred the [e-]mails to the Department of Justice for an investigation," Perino said.

On top of a criminal investigation in-

FOLEY

to the e-mails, a House ethics panel has also opened an investigation into the handling of the scandal.

While condemning the e-mails, Democrats have taken hope to gain political advantage by sounding hark and letting the Republicans answer many recriminations over the scandal.

"There's an old axiom in politics: never interfere with your opponent when they're in the process of committing suicide," said Larry Sabato, a political expert at the University of Virginia.

The Democratic state, however, has gotten sharper since Hastert replaced this week than he would not resign.

"This Republican Congress has now completely failed the American people," said the Democratic leader in the Senate, Harry Reid. "We did expect them to protect our kids. It is now clear we expected too much of them." There are also for the Democrats in reaching out beyond the scandal, said Eric Davis, a politics professor at Middlebury College. "They would be blamed for being too negative" by the electorate.

"The Democrats should do not very well. Low-key people should be worried about the congressional elections being a referendum on Bush and the Republican Congress and not do very much about Foley and Hastert as all." AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Bata regains** Asian 9-Ball overall title /A28

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa

- **Athletics** eliminate Twins, reach AL championship series /A30

UAAP proves steadier in All-Star tussle

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT LOOKED LIKE THE SANTO TOMAS Tigers' magic had rubbed off on the rest of the UAAP superstars.

The UAAP squad overcame repeated rallies by the formidable NCAA crew and held on for an 65-57 triumph in the Sunny Sun 3X3 UAAP-NCAA All-Stars invitational at the Philsports Arena.

RITA's John Duremdes, who finished with 13 points, provided the firepower in the closing minutes to earn a hit-second Most Valuable Player prize after bagging the UAAP Finals MVP last Monday.

With Tigers coach Nic Antonio calling the shots, the UAAP squad also threw a strong performance from season MVP Ken Bono, who hauled into five threes that outdistanced the lead, 62-78, in the last 15.1 seconds. The lively Adamson senior scooped up a team-high 21 markers.

The NCAA, though, proved tougher in its nine-point rout, 72-61, but Seda shooter David Mercado shot a team-high 11 points to clinch the MVP trophy.

In the side events, Ilonn Espiritu of the University of the East Warriors showed off his dexterity in the dunkfest competition.

Espiritu, the league's slamdunk leader at 2.1 stuns per game, earned 46 points from the five-man judging panel led by commissioners Jimi Yango of the UAAP and Jun Bernardino of the NCAA.

Arnaiz's JC rival, the season 2004 champion, finished just a point shy at 47 points and settled for runner-up status.

Wearing flames made by Norman Black's Jun Miguel among local emerged a two-handed double-pump dunk in the final round.

Third placer Rafael Ilarde of Jose Rizal University scored 44 points after nailing some rare ones for a one-hand jam.

Cyrus Tiu, Arnaiz's clutch-shooting guard, nailed the three-point shootout after edging San Beda's Idos Angeles in the tie-breaker.

Tiu tallied nine points, while Angeles scored five in the final round after both finished with 15 points.

Jun Bernardino topped the 2-3 ball contest with the Stags' Jim Viray and the Staglets' Anthony del Rosario collecting 65 points.

University of the Philippines placed second after the series tie-breaker of Mijo de Asis and Jojo Baguio combined for 56 points.

Daniel, who led the Tigers to the UAAP title recently at

ILAAP dunk champ Ilonn Espiritu of UE.

the expense of the Arenas Blue Eagles, spearheaded UAAP's recovery in the fourth period by pouring in six straight points for a 59-57 lead.

Rookie MVP Sam Haver of San Beda and Philippine Christian University's Jason Castro orchestrated an NCAA comeback in the last three minutes, but could only pull their team within 63-70.

NCAA failed to subvert the lead as Garcon and Jam Ibeda's Pong Escobal missed on two-three point attempts.

The scores

First Game (-61):

RSM 72—Mercado 22, Bautista 11, Ubando 11, Pascual 10, Katigbing 6, Lamsin 6, Wong 4, Quiao 4, Ramirez 2, Lamsing 2, Del Rio 0, Soledad 0, Siregar 0.

UAAP 61—Rivera 19, Robinson 8, Ibeda 8, Acosta 6, Lopez 5, Gamoga 5, Salmorania 4, Jacinto 4, Ildefo 2, Daniel 2, Pogoy 2, Reyes 2, Gavino 1, Pramis 0.

Quarters: 19-31, 29-35, 45-47, 72-61

Second Game (Live):

UAAP 57—Ilore 20, David 12, Tabalog 12, Arellano 5, Cruz 5, Ili. Cruz 2, Evangelista 2, Arao 0, Ong 0, Rivera 0, Rebustor 0, Villanueva 0, Jones 0, Escalona 0.

RSM 59—Cortez 21, Abes 12, Oliva 10, Mercado 10, Del Rosario 4, Pandal 1, Nino 1, Sarabia 1, Dela Cruz 1, Ramos 0, Tanseinchi 0, Ural 0, Angeles 0, Blandaquez 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 35-32, 45-38, 57-59

Panel sifts through roster of members

By Jam Navarro

THE 15-MEMBER PANEL HEADED BY RUSsow system Manny V. Pangilinan started yesterday the arduous task of sifting through the membership of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and the Philippine Basketball (PBA) who will be accredited during the national congress of the country's new federation for the sport.

Pangilinan met with BAP president Joey Lina and PBA head Ricardo Abaoag last night to determine the status of the groups, particularly those aligned with the BAP before the new federation, the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP), holds a national congress on Oct. 16.

"We have to be meticulous in validating the members but the panel hopes to complete everything hopefully by Oct. 16," said Antonio.

Fourteen of the 56 members of the BAP are under question while there are no reports of the PBA-affiliated groups being under scrutiny.

The 14 BAP members under the microscope are the Basketball Association of Laguna, Bohol Basketball League, Cagayan Basketball League, Ilagan-Benguet Amateur Basketball Association, ALEI Express Basketball Club, Cavite Blue Collegiate Athletic Association, Cebu Sports Commission, Davao Inter-Church Basketball League, Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation, Private Inter-School Athletic Association, Southern Leyte Colleges and Universities Athletic Association, Iloilo Colleges and Universities Athletic Association, Tondo Basketball Club, Pinoso Basketball League-Davao and Women's National Basketball League.

Validating the members of each association, including those outside of the national capital region, is expected to take some time. The panel is reviewing the list based on an agreed set of criteria for membership is formulated. The meeting must resume a problem for the SBP, which hopes to come up with a set of officers before the Oct. 16 deadline set by the FIBA.

Hot Kings topple Giants for 2nd straight victory

By Musong R. Castillo

DUMAGUETE—JONG UICHICO STILL REFUSES TO acknowledge that his Barangay Ginebra squad is the team to beat.

But for the second straight game, one where victory came in the same brutal and expected manner as the first, the Kings are sending a different message across.

Barangay Ginebra standardbed defending champion Purefoods, 86-67, in a road game last night at the Lamberto Macias gym here, a win that should have solidified the powerhouse status of Uichico's squad in a way the Kings could not accomplish against a "young team that is still feeling its way around the league."

GAME STATS (Ginebra-Purefoods)
3-PT: 6/16 — 9/30 (.400 & .300) | Extra Gins: 4 | Extra Pure: 0 | Gins in Trouble: 0 | Pure in Trouble: 0 | Gins Fouled Out: 0 | Pure Fouled Out: 0 | Gins Ejected: 0 | Pure Ejected: 0 | Technicals: 0 | Gins Bench: 0 | Pure Bench: 0

The Kings, who came off a 102-69 thumping of the young and inexperienced Dragons in the Annual opening Sunday last week, recorded a double-digit lead last night, used to counter and never bothered back to join the fast ball for the early elimination round lead at 2-0.

Giedrius, whose mark was boosted with the acquisition of three reliable big men in the off-season, jumped out of the gate with a 10-2 lead and stretched this to 26-12 after one quarter.

The Kings took a 50-34 lead into the halftime break to practically settle the outcome.

The Giants, who were the tournament favorite to [illegible] in the conference "It's just that this wasn't a tournament of the stuff that this conference."

Purefoods lost credibility to that rejoinder, starting in the same key and backfired by 0-2-80 in a 109-99 loss in Talk 'N Text to absorb its second straight loss and languish alone in the cellar

Bata regains Asian 9-Ball overall title

By Roy Luarca

WHEN EFREN "BATA" Reyes is in form, he's unconquerable.

He visit enhanced by knee surgery late last year, Reyes topped two legs and regained the San Miguel Beer (SMB) Asian 9-Ball Tour overall championship with plenty to spare.

The 32-year-old singalon City pool wizard topped the Mediators and Jakarta legs of the country's shopping circuit en route to a runaway 190 points, displacing his reign in the SMB-sanctioned inaugural edition in 2000 and the four-leg 2004 Tour.

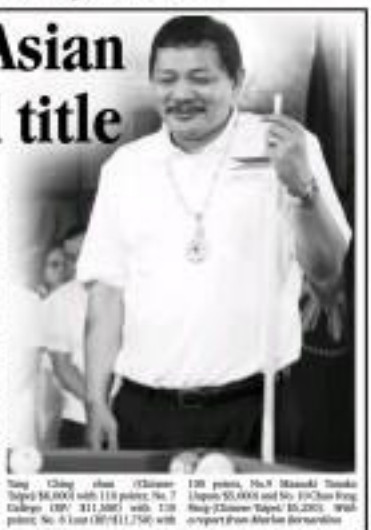
Reyes earned a total of $11,500, pocketing the overall champ in the Order of Merit because there are other talented players. Apart from my country, now there are the Taiwanese stars to contend with."

Competitors Rumil Gallego won the second leg in Bangkok and Reddy "Boy Samson" Lua dominated the final leg in Kuching to complete the Philippine sweep in the region's lone ranking tournament for the World Championship.

Gallego and Lua, who teamed up several in the recent US Open in Chesapeake, Virginia, landed seventh and eighth, respectively, in the Order of Merit.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante, despite being unable to end his title-drought in the Swiss Tour, finished fifth due to consistent performances in the Kuchitang, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh legs.

Bustamante up the top 10 in the Order of Merit and seeded into the main draw of the Philippine World Pool Championships were No. 2 Wang Heng Hsiang (Chinese-Taipei/ $7,500) with 138 points; No. 3 Li Hsi Wen (China/ $6,500) with 130 points; No. 4 Wu Kun Lin (China/ $5,500) with 120 points; No. 5 Francisco "Django" Bustamance (RP/$6,250) with 119 points; No.6 Yang Ching chun (Chinese-Taipei/ $6,000) with 118 points; No. 7 Gallego (RP/ $11,500) with 110 points; No. 8 Lua (RP/$11,750) with 108 points; No.9 Manuel Tanaka Laguna/$5,000) and No. 10 Chua Eng Siang (Chinese-Taipei/ $5,250). *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*



Alcano beats Gabica, wins Blaze 9 Ball

FORMER AU BILLIARDS ROOKIE OF THE Year Rolando Alcano downed 2004 10-9 ball Open rider Antonio Gabica, 9-8, in an all-Filipino finals of the Blaze 9 Ball Tour 24th stop at the Hackensack Billiards in New Jersey recently.

The 34-year-old Alcano, from Columbia City, Laguna, earlier lost to Gabica, 5-7, in their last meet match, but the overcast who now captured his first career shot at his conquerer by beating Sean Morgan, 7-5, in the loser's bracket.

Alcano received the top prize of $650.

ALCANO

Gabica pocketed $400, Morgan picked up $250 while four-in bagged $200 for fourth.

It was the third Blaze 9 Ball Tour title for Alcano after winning twice to the ongoing '05 pool circuit last month. He won the Blaze Tour Stop 21 in Town Room Billiards in Maple Shade, New Jersey then dominated the Blaze 9 Ball Tour Stop 22 in Cosmo's Billiards in Delmar City in Pennsylvania.

Alcano arranged a hot war match with Gabica by posting past Jason Michas, 7-3, Danny Stanwich, 7-5, and Joe Hayes, 7-2. Gabica, 38, from Lapu Lapu City in Cebu, clobbered Carmen Lombardo, 7-6, Billy G, 7-5, and Bob Owens, 7-0.

Alcano and Gabica, who play under the Bugsy's promotion of Percy Marciano, finished in the last 16 in the recently concluded 10-Open in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Another Filipino sensation, Wesley Manalo, who bagged a $500,000 cash-n-car grand prize in the 2005 North American International Pool Tour (APT) 9-Ball shoot-out last June in Las Vegas, also topped the Blaze 9 Ball Tour Stop 23 last August. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Centro shines in Battle of the Courts opener

By Jong Arcasas

IT WILL TAKE A FULL COMPLEMENT of eight good players for any team to even think of beating Centro Atletico in the Philippine Battle of the Courts basketball tournament.

Centro Atletico got this message across as it saved all eight players in its roster for a stretch of combination close passed unbeatable at the start yesterday of the opening eliminations leg at the Pasig pool courts in La Piedad.

Centro was hardly challenged by backstroker Sports Center, Playground and Home Enhancement Center in posting 3-0 triumphs that assured it of a place in today's semifinals of the country personal by Inquirer Enchanter, Wireless and Bank Philippine Islands.

The Battle of the Courts, the country's most prestigious inter-club competition, is also supported by Unilever, Dairy Free Whip, 888 Medicated Spray and Gerber Vitelles.

Centro coach Rodong Gonzales didn't give the enemy a chance to savor his team by shutting his wards in the three formats.

Howard Yliza, Bob Pulido, Alex Vibo, Jaime Ramos, Dan Ani Ilon, Gino Pineda, Emil Ango and Mario Dumaua made sure they got out of the Playground club race wire-to-wire of their center's trip to the finals.

League newcomer Philippine National Police, Bangkas and Alabang Racquet Club, however, still have shown Centro something to ponder on as well.

All three teams finished the day with 3-0 records as well and, like Centro, clinched spots for the finals next month at the top four teams in each of the three eliminations leg will advance.

PNP defeated South Smash, The Palms and Mystics in succession, Alabang Racquet Club won over Playground, Home Enhancement and Bachelors SC and Bangkas downed Bjom's, South Smash and The Palms.

Peregrina banked on the duo of Mark Mayo and Aldfer Benitez to survive South Smash in the day's most thrilling match. After splitting the first two formats, it all came down to the match doubles for Peregrina and South Smash. With the score knotted at 15, Mayo and Benitez won the last three points against Randy Villanueva and Paul Martinez for the match and the tie.

STANDINGS	W	L
Group I		
Centro	3	0
PNP	3	0
Peregrina	2	1
Mystics	1	2
South Smash	1	2
The Palms	0	3
Group II		
Centro	3	0
Alabang Racquet Club	3	0
Bachelors Sports Center	1	2
Playground	1	2
Home Enhancement	0	3

BLINDFOLD BOXING

Every weekend, these grade school boxing enthusiasts are blindfolded and thrown into a ring in Baguio to see each other in a good natured match. The matches are sponsored by sports doctor Dharlee Dong, and the Baguio Boxing Club as a way to draw public support for the game.

Galicia sparks strong start by Palos Verdes

DANG-IGOT RANCHO PALOS VERDES smoothed an expected big start led by its Group II quintet even as defending champion Alta Vista and Eagle Ridge appeared ready to give the home team a good fight after the first 10 holes Friday of the Sta. Ana Turbo Golf Tour here.

Ronald Galicia scored a two-over-par gross of 74 for 32 points and powered Palos Verdes to a nine-point lead in Group II, a huge margin that bolstered its drive to secure the top position at the end of the two-day tour-leg of the seven-round season-stopping series.

Jaime Tan Jr. contributed 49 and Modesto Castillo chipped in 46 for a 147 Palos Verdes total, far ahead of Alta Vista 2 (130) and Summit Point 3 (126).

Also Also 2, posting a day best 32 points from Mario Javier V, paced Group I while Eagle Ridge Noveau registered 39 for II.

Elite sponsors of the Sta. Ana Tour 2006, a circuit exclusive to clubs flying the banner of the great real estate firm, are Unitrack, Medicos, Rajah Sports Marketing and Pinnet Golf.

The Manila Polo of Dewo, Marmon Cebu and The Bellevue Manila are the official hotels, Samsung, Telstar, Pinnacle, Cobra and Bridgestone are hole-in-one sponsors and Philippine Airlines is the official airline. Harrowdene Golfwear is providing a Playtronic Golf Card for a hole-in-one bonus.

Alta Vista 2 posted 145 for the Group I leadership with Arnie getting support from Bonnie Sebastian and Rio Fewing Sarok with 66 each. They were just three points ahead of Dave Wesley I and five up on Alta Vista 1.

Manny Villanueva (40), Ben Hernandez (35) and Thomas de Dios (32) suggergated 109 for Eagle Ridge 3 which will try to secure a three-point lead over Palos Verdes 6 in yesterday's final round with Eagle Ridge 6 (108) also in contention.

Summit Point 3 was third in Group II, Lakewood 2 was fifth in Group I, Orchard 5 was sixth in Group II and Bayside Tagaytay was ninth in Group II.

Leading the individual categories were Acton Chi-hoe over Tibo Mickiewicz of Dalvel in the championship class, Galicia Fly ana over Edwin Espino of Alta Vista in Class A, Jaime Tan Jr. of Palos and Max Angeles of Summit Chi one over Edgardo Cillet of Nelco in Class B.

Coach E bares cage program

THE COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL WEEKday camp is an innovative curriculum that focuses on basketball fundamentals and values formation for all its trainees.

The sessions will be held at 8B, Malaysian Airlines (Ktx.7), The Zone in Makati (Ktx. 111), clubcability in Libis (Ktx. 12), San Beda in Mendiola (Ctx. 17) and Xavier School in San Juan.

International Basketball Academy president Joey Young said the whole-year round school founded by Philippine Basketball Association champion coach Eric Altamirano is committed to the wholistic approach to instilling basketball.

"Our vision is not only to teach basketball skills but also to impart important values for life," said Young.

Call 631-1130 or 0921-7582030 for information on Shiva Manila venues and 843-7584265, 843-1124626 and 0917-8432401 (Ronnie) for Mt. Makiapo/ Greenhills.

IT USED TO BE FOUGHT BARE-KNUCKLE but said it evolved into a more civilized struggle.

And since its gradual change into what is now perceived as a sweet science, boxing has provided writers to showcase its finest moments as well as its not so wholesome side.

The case of Marco Antonio Barrera, unbeaten since Manny Pacquiao showed him the door to their Texas fracas, is an issue that refuses to go away. It has unraveled underworld accusations from a handful of scribes meeting out of press or angle their deadlines.

Despite Marco's splendid rebound since his loss to the Pacman, some middleweight fanatics and a columnist or two, remain oblivious to the drubbings Jose Medardo Ayala, Will Grayson and Carlos Hernandez Salgado administered to the Mexican in his three-year comeback.

But even the brutal stoppage of Mexicali Rose and Robbie Peden capped by the ominous decisions of the game Bobby Amirez could not deter him on a return go-round the Philippine idol.

Morales, whom Barrera beat twice in three of their title matches, holds a grueling acquisition of the ranks of their own trilogy that pairing an objection to the planned March 2007 Pacquiao-Barrera outing.

But why are we ahead of our story which should be that "Erased Hands," sporting Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao and trik "El Terrible" Morales at the Thomas and Mack Arena in Las Vegas on May 19 (US Manila time).

Pacquiao-Morales III—hassle-free

COMMENTARY
Hermie Rivera

This early Pacquiao's fans are wondering how their idol is doing since the distraction that usually attend his camp since being spattered by his train, ex-Priscilla Beach.

As far as good, as of Manny's last sighting at the Hollywood Wild Card gym where he has begun honing up his sparmates.

Manny's acquisition of the boxing legend Oscar De La Hoya continues to reap headlines day by day, leaving the minimum to conclude that a rematch is the only way by which Bob can salvage his loss to the Filipino icon, who possesses an obsessive ability to make a permanent mark if his career is at stake.

For Morales, no problems as far as weight wars are concerned, or as his handlers claim. He has seen to it that the kid time he put in as a Los Angeles fitness center is enough to earn the moniker of "ground" he must still use in case he fails to meet the required 130-pound limit.

If there's a fighter somewhere intent in avenging the only knockout loss of his career that would be Erik right? And he can do that if his deep fitness nights is not broken by nightmares of his 10th-round knockout by Manny last January.

But how would Erik's weight fan programs affect his performance when the May 5 he is tangling with a

Ababa boosts Samsung lead

SAN MIGUEL, BOHOL—JOSEL ABABA pulled away from the pack by three strokes with a solid three-under par 69 yesterday at his close rounds in the fifth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Del Monte Golf Club here yesterday.

Held to a tie in the first two days, Ababa carded one bird before his nine and another three more on the back nine for a 213 total and a 54-hole aggregate of 209.

Titan Tolosa matched Ababa's 69 with an eagle-spiked round to emerge the new challenger with a 212 total as Antonio Asaf Jr. failed to break par at the up-and-down, challenging layout.

Ababa, who shared the lead with Ababa in the first round of this event serving as the last leg of the five-stage circuit sponsored by Samsung and featuring the country's top amateurs, carded just 72 and 72 for a total of 213.

Bayona, whose 69 Friday kept him in step with Ababa halfway through the 72-hole tournament hosted by Taylor Made, C-Lions Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Cannon Globmasters/KSG and Southeb with Asia Alf-3, Single 8/19 and PPA Rf and Solar Sports Plus as the tournament boosters, finished 3 strokes over 74 and tumbled down to fourth at 214.

Also at 214 was Mark Fernando after a 72 while Simon Aninio, who shot a 71, used seven shots behind bowling into the final 18 holes of this event where the champion will join the first four leg winners in the grand finals next month at Mt. Malarayat.

The grand finalists so far are national team mainstay Marvin Bernardo, the winner at Royal Northwoods, Jun Bersak (Baguio Country Club), Gene Brandon (Rancho Palos Verdes) and Bobby Juarez (Splendido Tan).

Meanwhile, Mike Bernardo overcame 71 to pace the men's Class A by five strokes.

Arcilla-Ruel title clash up in Abalos Cup

TOP-SEEDED JOHNRY ARCILLA TROUNCED fourth seed Oliver Aparis, 6-1, 6-0, yesterday to reach the final of the 2006 Abalos Cup Men's Open Tennis Championships in the SCBD's outdoor courts in Mandaluyong City.

Arcilla, eyeing his second straight title after the Cagay Open last month, will face second seed Rolando Ruel Jr., who beat unseeded third seed Alexander Lazaro, 6-2, 6-0.

In the doubles, fourth seeds Joseph Vetcon and Alexander Lazaro won by default over top seeds Arcilla and James Wilkerson to advance to the final against unseeded Yannick Golez and Cesar Castillo, who beat unseeded Michael Shoss III and Dino Jimenez, 6-3, 6-3.

In the juniors division, fourth seed Ashwell Baldonado ousted top seed Russell Arcilla Jr., 6-0, 6-3, 6-0, to advance to the boys' 18-under final against No. 7 Bolf Cariaga, who won over Jeffrey Caldez, 7-5, 6-2, 1-2 (ret.).

In the boys' 16-under division, No. 3 Alex Ely downed Raymund Pedigon, 6-3, 6-0, in advance against No. 4 Kim Tanseco, 6-4, 6-1. Results were not filed.

Other finalists were No. 1 Juan Lorenzo Reyes against Jeremy Lim-Yuson (14-under); No. 1 Alejandro dela Cruz and Mario Bongcon (12-under); and No. 1 Vince Galan and No. 3 Jonathan Jacinto in the newest 10-under.

PCSO special today

[illegible]

VIC Darchinyan (left) and Glen Donaire put up a fighting stance after the weigh-in at Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on Friday. AP

TV producer, copywriter rule Amazing Race Asia

FAMILIARITY WITH THE EVENT DOES Fred Ilar the boys Team of Gabby Aguilar and Jason Delfino as they sailed AXN's Thai-themed Amazing Race Asia Promotional Tour recently at the Manila Staff of the SM Mall of Asia.

The 26-year-old Aguilar, who independently produces reality-based adventure races, and his copywriter teammate Jason Delfino, emerged triumphant among the second batch of urban jungle racers and adventurers.

Team Mariner of Rodolfo Lotz Jr. and Ronnie Ladores landed second, while the Amazing Team, led by Achen Salvador, settled for third in the race days Amazing Race Asia Promotional Tour held to promote the first-ever Asian edition of the hot time-filming award-winning reality series.

"It was a very enjoyable race," said Aguilar. "More than the prize, it was really the chance of competing in the Amazing race and meeting the people on AXN that really pressed me to the high point of this amazing event."

Hundreds of Amazing Race participants went through a qualifying round that saw them going through Mine Field, the boatyard Milk Shake Challenge, the Flukin N' Swim Challenge and finally the Land Mine Cleven Challenge by Cobra.

Competitors of the last three teams were required to climb a high wall and retrieve as many box Cobalt logos as possible. The promotional tour also visited Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi. The Manila edition was sponsored by Cobra, Mama 10, Sunsuper Premium, San Cellular, Converse, and Nokia Electric Boy Lasco.

Donaire faces Darchinyan; Gabi prevails

FILIPINO-AMERICAN GLEN DONAIRE WILL TRY TO PLAY THE role of a matador today when he challenges the undefeated IBF and IBO flyweight champion Vic "Raging Bull" Darchinyan in a 12-round title showdown at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

The fight will be the third appearance in the ring for Donaire, who is making his debut as a two-time WBC lightweight title holder, was declared vacant when champion Castrejon failed to make the weight at yesterday's weigh-in.

The Australia-based Armenian Darchinyan came in at an exact 112 lbs, while Donaire checked in at a trim 115 lbs at the weigh-in.

The 30-year-old Darchinyan (26-0, 21 KOs) will be making the fifth defense of the IBF title, and fourth of his IBO crown against the 26-year-old Donaire (19-2-1, 9 KOs), who was born in Central Junior City but is now based in California.

"Darchinyan's opponents have been intimidated by him. But my hunch is that Donaire does not have a style to make for the hefty punch with his left hand," Lozano told Bilasinong Bisa interview yesterday.

In the undercard, Mario Donaire, Glen's younger brother, takes on Mexican Omar Andrade in defense of his NABF super flyweight title.

The youngest Donaire holds a record of 11 wins, 1 loss with 11 KOs, while Andrade is a 40-fight veteran who once fought and lost to Irene Pedalino.

Meanwhile, Filipino Olympic Winner Cuba scored a devastating first-round cardboard knockout win over Mexican Felipe Perez.

The Pedido Beacon trained and managed Cuba pressed on match for the Mexican, stopping him at ten a series of shots.

The win improved Cuba's record to 20-0-1, 20 KOs, and lined him up for another shot at a world title.

Beach had earlier said that after two more fights, he will try to arrange a world title crack for Cuba. — Nelson L. Laguardia

SPORTSWATCH

TKS sets Ford owners track day Oct. 15

Circuit Car Class Oct. 22 in Subic

All Green! All In! Hold 'Em tilt

No entry fee in Cebu, Visayas derby

Bulacan breeder leads LGBA race

Stay screaming at Religan today

Real Pinoy Fighter airs tomorrow

THE REAL PINOY FIGHTER, THE COUNtry's first-ever reality TV mixed martial arts competition, will debut tomorrow on AXN-CBN Channel 2.

Airing Mondays after Bandila, it will show 14 fighters with different skills (judo, karate, taekwondo, wrestling, boxing and jujitsu) always training, face the challenges and survive the eliminations.

More than 200 joined the system and those who survived were selected base. Rolfe Gatus, national wrestler Michael Makabali, street fighter Bernard Soriano, UAAP judo gold medalist Dale Villanueva, martial artist Jhave Abbas, Louise Manny, Johnnie Sarmiento, Josh Javier, Jericho Tiwa, Matthew Joseph, Allan Feliz, Christopher Lacuna, Alexander Asis Bautista, Andrew Sandoz and Clarkson Cantu.

Poker Part II today

THE MELBOURNE PUblic Tour (PPT) resumes with the holding of the Angeles Holdem Challenge Part II today at the Casino Filipino Angeles, located at Clarkview Resort Hotel, Mac-Arthur Highway, Mabalacat, Angeles City.

Winners of the tournament will earn points on the grand finals of the Million-dollars Holdem Philippine Championship at Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino Pavilion, Manila.

They will join Angeles Holdem Challenge Part I winners, namely: Steve Dupuis, Glenn Angus, Irene Bandolon, Jobb Jaimes and Moses Flores.

After the Tagaytay Challenge on Oct. 14, the poker tour moves to Visayas and Mindanao.

First in line is the Bacolod Challenge to be held at Casino Filipino Bacolod on Oct. 21 followed by the Cebu Lahug Challenge at Oct. 28 at the Casino Filipino Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu.

Casino Filipino Mactan is also hosts the tournament on Nov. 11 while Casino Filipino Subic gets its turn on Nov. 25.

Details about the tournaments are posted at www.Philippinesholdem.com.

Poker enthusiasts can pre-register with Cindy at 631-9692 or 632-0703.

Your sympathy is good, but we need cash.

Pwede na rin ang G-Cash or in kind.

Make many pilipinos happy - make many smile. We need your help. Donate cash, food or medicine to the Tabang Mindanao Relief and Rehabilitation Effort. Donations for the moment through your nearest outlet: SM Savings Bank: Acct. No. 0063-0001-69 - Multi-Media Savings: Acct. No. 1193-4-77400004-0 or through its e-channel: CEBUNOW <space> Amount <space> Mobile # (to get <space> CARITAS) and send to 2382

Caritas Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2006
E-mail at _____
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra

RP golfers struggle in Taiwan

LIMPAN SHAU GOES 4-UNDER 72 DAILY A TWO-SHOT LEAD OVER GARY Limpan after three rounds of the Taiwan Open. Liu is -10 under at the Sunrise Golf and Country Club. Filipino hosts struggled as Angelo Que fired a -2 to end in a tie for 17th at three-under. Justin Poppinga (-7) was tied for 22nd at two-under. David Russell (+1) bathroomed to last place.

Rate us on SportsReads: inquirer.spo.com/sportsfeedback/message or 2207 (Globe) or 280 (Smart)

Ferrari gains crucial pole

FELIPE Massa (front) and Ferrari have the rival Renault pair where they want them. Behind Massa and Michael Schumacher at the grid. AFP

SUZUKA, JAPAN—MICHAEL SCHUMACHER looked like the car and the events after earning his Ferrari teammate Brazilian Felipe Massa take pole for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix and his 67th rival Fernando Alonso finish up in fifth place after qualifying.

The excitement-bound 37-year-old German, who leads Spaniard Alonso by the narrow count of nine-nine, was the fastest man of the day, but unable to deliver the pole lap in the final session Saturday when Massa clinched his second pole with a lap in one minute and 29.595 seconds.

"I would prefer pole, but for me it is more important to have a dynamic behind me so I decided even so I am very happy...and it looks very much as if the bridgestone tires perform-ing very well here," said Schumacher.

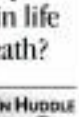
"I love to race here, it is a fantastic track. And in these cars, it is so much fun, we have so much grip that the car feels like the car is flying through the tunnel."

Ferrari's brilliant all-round team display meant that they achieved a lockout of the front row of the grid and, with the new Sky crew of Ralf Schumacher and Italian Jarno Trulli in third and fourth places, have a considerable advantage for the race.

While Schumacher boasted with pleasure, Alonso was left to admit he faces an uphill struggle to overcome the Ferrarris and wins to keep his title challenge alive. Schumacher can win the championship if he wins the race and Alonso fails to score. AFP

UST's Apil: A hero in life and death?

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

THE CALL FROM UST team manager Clarence Ang was unexpected but it was most welcome.

Clarence said he had read the item in this column on deceased UST rugger John Lee Apil who died in a freak accident just a month before the start of the 2006 UAAP season.

It was a most tragic death, according to Clarence.

"He saved the lives of two drowning boys but lost his own in the process."

Having brought the boys to safety, Clarence said John Lee was emerging from the water when he was electrocuted. A live wire had fallen into the water while his feet were still immersed in it.

* * *

"You never know about angels in the basketball, but did you hear about the black barong?"

Clarence said he didn't believe in those things until a recent experience.

"The wake all together where this black barong appeared in the UST dugout at the Araneta Coliseum right after the second semifinal game against IU which we won," Clarence related.

"Personally, I didn't notice the shirt until I was inside the dugout, although some assistant coaches of mine swore that it had floated with us on the way inside, perhaps from the bandwagon.

"For awhile the shirt hovered inside the dugout, as if it's there in the team's jubilation. Then it vanished, just as suddenly as it had appeared.

"Neighbor Ateneo losing labor Dan Gozo/ athletic director Felicisimo Fernandez (ex-Tiger and PBA player Gerard's mom) says the butterfly Ateneans agreed it was John Lee. I still get goose bumps when I think about it," Clarence said.

* * *

Last Monday during the last game of the Ateneo UST best-of-three championship series, the black mesh appeared again.

Ateneo's Fred Oraa was taking a free throw when the butterfly crossed his line of vision. Oraa missed the shot.

Jun Cortes, Oraa's best friend, was one of the very few who saw the butterfly.

"It was very, very eerie," said Clarence who considers the Tigers' victory as a miracle in itself.

"In the start of the season, it was difficult to imagine that we'd get this far. From the beginning, we've been plagued with a variety of injuries and ailments. The team was given a hundred percent healthy. And if we are to consider last year's record, it was indeed difficult to be optimistic."

Was UST helped by supernatural forces?

Maybe not, maybe so. But it does look like there's been a measure of the team had gone out of their way to appreciate the victory in spirit.

* * *

Also he on the level when Sta. Lucia's prodigal son Ates Cabagnot said that he has always been happy with his team.

Perhaps it really was, when you tell...although his past actions point to the contrary.

But all the bad attitude has been forgiven and forgotten especially after Ates redeemed himself in the Bradbury over first game of the season against Alaska.

Ates admitted he was inspired. First teammate Kelly Williams and Mark Isip added a fresh dimension to the team, according to him, as he humbly said that he only "filled in the gap."

* * *

The action covering the PBA are not too comfortable in the new location of the press row behind the south goal leading to the dugout.

"It's hard to see the play clearly, especially on the opposite court," said one of the talkies of the press corps, who complained that now the shot-puts line is difficult to see.

"We're cramped, there aren't enough seats for everybody. I don't know why they decided to relocate us.

So who's occupying the old press row?

"Ang sino-sino lang," he said.

Athletics eliminate Twins

Kenny Rogers stars as Tigers roast pricey Yankees

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—THE OAKland Athletics swept away years of first-round heartbreak when they beat the Minnesota Twins 8-4 to reach the American League championship series for the first time in 14 years on Friday.

Milton Bradley homered and threw out Torii Hunter in a dilapidated play at the plate as the A's ended a run of nine straight losses to potential playoff clinchers.

The A's never ended in finishing off the Twins in October, and will face either the Detroit Tigers or New York Yankees starting on Tuesday.

Marco Scutaro doubled twice and tied an Oakland postseason record with four hits, and first Chavez homered as the Athletics won a playoff series for the first time since 1990.

Hunter and Justin Morneau homered for the Twins, who surprisingly won the AL Central on the regular season's final day but couldn't snap the kind of first-round comeback they pulled off against the A's four years ago.

Hunter made a key mistake in the sixth inning. Down 4-3, the Twins were collecting when first-draft White hit a BIG single. Hunter then tried to score on the play and Bradley made a strong throw home. Hunter attempted to avoid catcher Jason Kendall's tag and reach the plate with his left hand, but plate umpire Mike Everitt called him out. Hunter blasted Everitt on the way off.

Eric Chavez drove in three runs and was 2-for-4 in his homage to the win, which the A's enjoyed with a postgame party in their clubhouse—which had been alcohol-free since June after pitcher Esteban Loaiza's drunken driving arrest.

STREET AFP

ROGERS REUTERS

Brad Radke, pitching with a sore labrum and sinus fracture to his throwing shoulder, was done after four innings for the Twins. He allowed five hits and four runs. He plans to call it quits after a 12-year career.

In Detroit, Kenny Rogers pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings and the Tigers topped New York, 6-0, to push Detroit within one victory of shocking the Yankees in an early victory.

In a ballpark normally locked up by October, the 41-year-old Rogers, one of the few Detroit staffers who doesn't like hit-by-pitch baseballs, used every pitch in his personal trash to blank the Yankees' equivalent offense for his first career postseason win.

Rogers' first win over the Yankees since 1993 came at the perfect time for the Tigers, who were playing their first postseason game in Comerica Park, the first playoff game in The Motor City since 1987 at Tiger Stadium.

Detroit, which left New York on Thursday with a split after rallying to win Game 2, scored three runs in the second inning off Randy Johnson and two more in the sixth. And, Rogers, whose career highlights include a perfect game in 1994 for Texas and a no-hitter earning run-in with a TV cameraman, made them stand up.

Rogers, who played for New York in 1996-97, confounded the Yankees with fastballs, sinkers, changeups and curves. The left-hander struck out eight—his most since he had nine in 2003—and walked two.

After yielding one Bobby Abreu for the second out in the eighth, Rogers was lifted by manager Jim Leyland and received a long, loud ovation as his walk to the Tigers dugout. AP

Hot Kings...

From page A27

six-round gamescore the fight three months ago, swept to victims 61-53, 59-55 and 60-54.

But that was the best the Classic could do, as Rudy Enrfield and Mark Capuyan scrambled to make it 7-6-5 heading into the final 12-11 round.

Meanwhile, Joe Pheno (5-0) fought for a share of the early lead when they collide with Alaska at 6:30 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Welcome and Gila-Gila surfer clash in the 4:00 p.m. game.

Opposing coach Jong Uichico said, coach Dimitri Pantazis think powers is keep the Phone Pals out the winning mark.

"It's part of the job," Pantazis said. Wednesday night, after three losing the Phone Pals past the Giants. "I can't ask for anything more from management, which has been very supportive.

"For my part, I have to do good and deliver."

Pantazis is calling the shots for a franchise that does not entertain thoughts of relocating to the north while third team. After getting a number of marquee players to stadia, Fabian, in mind, it not in option.

Pantazis feels that an early loss could dampen the morale of his players, which is at a high after coming off training in the US and Korea just three weeks after getting the boot in the last conference.

Corrales makes costly weight error

LAS VEGAS—BOBBED OF A BIG PAYDAY when his last opponent wouldn't make weight, Diego Corrales vowed never to disgrace boxing by not being at the proper weight himself.

So what happened on Friday? Corrales weighed in a career-high 3 pounds (2.25 kilograms) over the weight limit for his WBC 135-pound (61-kilogram) title defense against Joel Casamayor.

"It's terribly ironic," promoter Gary Shaw said. "I'm shocked."

Corrales lost his title on the scale and will be fined by Nevada boxing authorities for not coming close to the weight. But, after agreeing to give up more than $1.2 million purse to Casamayor, the fight will go on Saturday night.

The WBC ruled that Casamayor can win the title by beating Corrales, though Corrales can't keep it by beating Casamayor. If Casamayor loses, he would fight a top contender for the vacant title in his next fight.

The fight was to double after Corrales weighed 140 pounds (63.5 kilograms), then came back a short time later and weighed 139 1/2 pounds (62.2 kilograms). Boxers usually have between six per hours to get down to 135 pounds (61.3 kilograms). He made it down to 139 1/2.

In addition to getting more money for the fight, Casamayor will get half of the $250,000 fine levied by the Nevada State Athletic Commission against Corrales for not making weight.

"I definitely deserve to be punished," Corrales said. "I should make weight and I didn't."

(CAL) Casamayor jubilates after making the weight. The Cuban connect his paw-prints on the scales...the same place where a dejected Diego Corrales (right) lean his forh. AP

Representatives of both fighters debriefing after the weigh-in at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino to come to an agreement on Corrales paying Casamayor some of his purse. But Shaw declined to say just how much of the purse Casamayor would get.

They also agreed to a second weigh-in at noon Saturday, at which point neither fighter can weigh more than 147 pounds.

Corrales said he tried everything to lose weight—runs and naked were his last meal on Monday three days, he said, he had no food or water, nothing just on ice chips.

"My body just wouldn't let anything go," he said. "It just wouldn't."

The 5-foot-11 (1.80-meter) boxer said he had planned to leave the lightweight division after the May fight with Jose Luis Castillo, but after losing the title, changed his mind. At 135 pounds as he could get a more lucrative payday against Casamayor. AP

Suns, Clippers score European wins

ROBIN—SHAWN MARION SCORED 19 points and Steve Nash had nine assists as the Phoenix Suns beat Nicolai Lomonosov in Russia 100-93 in an exhibition on Friday.

The game was part of the NBA Europe Live Tour, which also features three other NBA teams playing on the continent. The Suns will play two more games in Cologne, Germany next week against the Philadelphia 76ers and another European team.

Phoenix led from the start and struggled only when coach Mike D'Antoni pulled his starters midway through each quarter.

Suja Bulbod Brazilian guard Leandro Barbosan each had 18 points for Phoenix.

Daniel Hackbus, who the Suns scouted, led Rome with 22 points.

"I'm proud of him. He was more physical than I thought," D'Antoni said of Hackbus. "He can play in the NBA."

In Moscow, Mouse Livingston scored 19 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers over BC Khimki, 96-91.

Center Chris Kaman and Corey Maggette also scored 17 each for Los Angeles, and Cuttino Mobley added 13. AP

METRO citizen's call

Have you a story to tell?
Like your car got stuck in a pothole on a long-delayed road project?

Tell us about it! All it takes is a tip from you through a text or picture message to us!

SMS: <call name/age/location><message>
MMS: <insert photo> <call name/age/location> <caption/message>
SEND TO 0918-8985566

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Will Manila have the longest queue for doughnuts?

Krispy Kreme owners expect a warm welcome

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

AS EARLY AS SEVEN YEARS ago, many Filipinos have been salking about Krispy Kreme doughnuts, having witnessed the long lines during store openings in the United States.

But at that time, the 69-year-old North Carolina-based doughnut shop was not keen on expanding outside the United States.

In fact, they were just starting to expand...having been a home-grown business for decades and a latecomer in the franchising game.

Krispy Kreme opened its first store outside mainland United States only in 1995, in New York in 1996 and Los Angeles in 1999.

The first international store was in Canada, which opened in December 2001.

Filipinos then had to be content with carrying boxes of the popular doughnuts back to Manila. Never mind if the doughnuts were a few days old by the time the recipients ate them. Everyone says the pastry still tasted so good after popping them for a few seconds in the microwave oven.

Big winner

With such a record, it's no surprise that a number of Filipino firms have attempted to get the local franchise of Krispy Kreme. A group, known for bringing in high-end clothing and bag brands, had even boasted of having already won the franchise.

But the winner proved to be a quiet worker—the group of Alan's Bienvenidos.

Carolyn T. Sobrevinas, the Texas class—owner of Alan's—says it took two years before their application got the nod of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Inc.

They made the announcement last July. The Real American Doughnut Co. Inc., owned and operated by the principals of Alan's, got the "development rights for the Philippines."

Alan's people recently talked in media about Krispy Kreme.

Sobrevinas, also T. Fernandez, chair of the Doughnut Co. and managing director of Alan's, say the first outlet of Krispy Kreme, at the Tutuban Center in Tagaytay City will open by mid-November.

And they are anticipating long lines during the opening. Sobrevinas there will be four customers to serve the first-day customers.

And as a come-on...the first in line will get a one-year supply of doughnuts or a ride of a dozen a week. The firm will also give away T-shirts and caps, but no free doughnuts.

When Go Nego Center, rented to turn the Krispy Kreme, opened a few years ago, the queue at the fast outlet made the news as shoppers were lined up for an hour or two hours to get their box or boxes of glazed doughnuts, the most popular variety.

Word-of-mouth marketing

Original Glazed is the first and most popular Krispy Kreme doughnut and is still true to the secret recipe brought by founder Vernon Rudolph from a French chef in New Orleans.

That it named the Krispy Kreme was the selling point of Go Nego. This means that while it is not yet in the Philippines, Krispy Kreme already enjoys brand awareness in the country.

But the Real American Doughnut Co. is not taking any chances.

A few weeks before store opening, Krispy Kreme is going to give away 100,000 doughnuts to victims of fire. Sobrevinas explains that this is how the firm does its marketing—by having the consumers actually taste the doughnuts, confident that after the first bite, they will ask for more.

The marketing scheme relies purely on word of mouth—or on how people will talk

AyalaLand PREMIER

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

call 728-7000 • email: ork@ayalalandpremier.com • log on to: www.ayalalandpremier.com

Sustainable livelihood program gives rural folks better earning power

THIRTEEN-year-old Mesai Pajaka shares her wooden artworks.

RESIDENTS OF BARANGAY Bangkal in General Nakar, Quezon have found a much more rewarding means of making a living out of the logs and wooden debris that were washed down by the Killer-Floods and mudslides that ravaged their hometown almost two years ago.

From selling charcoal at P65 a sack, they now sell driftwood sculpture pieces that can sell for as much as P35,000 each.

The Bangkal Sculptors, as they are now known, are not only selling well, they are also starting to give back and share their knowledge to their community.

The unlikely artisans are among the fishermen and farmers who lost everything they owned in the December 2004 tragedy that rushed the inland.

Although there were no casualties among the nearly 1,000 residents of Bangkal, 81 of the 158 households in this remote coastal fishing community lost their homes to the typhoon's wrath.

Livelihood was ruined. Fishing boats and fishnets as well as livestock and poultry were swept away. The once rich coastal fishing grounds were choked by the mudslides.

It was through an initiative of former Commissioner Imc that they were introduced to the art of woodcarving as an alternative livelihood.

Their transition from fisherfolk to artist-craftsmen involved a 10-day workshop under the tutelage of renowned sculptor Boy Dacanay, who was tapped by SMART to train 30 residents who later gave similar training to their other community members.

Today, Bangkal Sculptors include the likes of Ismel Bobasa a fisherman in his 30s, and Mesai Pajaka, 13.

They are men, women, teenagers and even schoolchildren who have discovered an innate passion for creating works of art out of old discarded wood or driftwood (as opposed to logged lumber), as well as a good way to earn a living.

The artisans, the Bangkal Sculptors Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and the community's developmental head of the Smart Amazing GE Village in General Nakar, got a chance of a lifetime recently.

"We wanted to demonstrate to them that they can be self-supporting, and that they can be artists in their own right," says Dennis Flores, Public Affairs Group's senior manager for community partnerships of SMART, by plain of relief goods. So people received training.

It proved to be the best help they ever got.

SMART helps promote Bangkal products, too. In 2005, the company gave out Bangkal boards as corporate gifts to its clients and friends. This year, the company is again looking at giving unique Bangkal artwork as Christmas gifts.

"We were at first reluctant to join the training. We didn't want to use logs that were driftwood," Bobasa says. When they explained that some of the driftwood had cracked logs and wood will be used, we got curious and started to attend the 10-day training. After a few days, we started making bowls and fishes from driftwood," said Bobasa to the organizers.

He is now chair of the Organizers of Bangkal Sculptors.

Aside from providing them a part of SMART's community service initiative in cooperation with General Nakar, Dubbed as the Project Bakal' program, its aims is to help rebuild the lives of the people of Bangkal.

Aside from providing them a sustainable livelihood project, SMART also financed the construction of 100 houses, called the SMART Amazing GE Village.

In partnership with Habitat Foundation, the company likewise initiated a reforestation project, providing saplings and seedlings and basic training on reforestation and maintenance of mangroves.

SMART also collaborated with Plaridel to support a community based early warning system that will warn residents in flood prone areas to evacuate to higher ground in case of rain-triggered landslide.

The SMART Amazing GE Village in General Nakar is a model Gawad Kalinga community.

Through its partnership with Gawad Kalinga, SMART is able to provide one living community in the community it services.

To date, it has adopted a total of seven villages in General Nakar; Isauro Gonzales; Bitaogan; Camp Abakaliki; Santa Magsaysay; Talim; Cebu City, Cebu; Antipolo, Bohol City, Iloilo; Port Magsaysay, Leyte, Naval, Biliran; and St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Drawing inspiration from Project Bakal, SMART is currently developing sustainable livelihood programs in its other GE-adopted villages.

The programs promote the use of resources that are readily available to the beneficiaries.

In Batasan, for instance, residents are due to attend training in carpentry for them to learn how to make furniture from even miniature inside of pine wood that are left piling in the nearby port area.

The livelihood programs will similarly require active participation and commitment from the residents.

Their willingness to learn and their success will be the key to determine the success of the program in the same way that the Bangkal Sculptors have been able to maximize the assistance that has been extended to them.

PRIMITIVE. Fifers with one of his early works. The genre sculptors has had a few thousand years.

Feedback support essential for franchise business

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION has always been one of the pillars of success in any business. This is doubly true when it comes to the franchise business, where the parent company is separate from its satellite branches and necessitates a degree of organization and coordination that only good communication tools can provide.

At Philippine Seven Corp., the licensor of the 24-hour convenience store chain 7-Eleven, strong communication forms the backbone of its daily operations. Today, its 169 company-owned and 112 franchised stores nationwide is its head office in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. The result is a constant support and feedback system that has helped the company grow to business versatility over the years.

"We have always considered solid communication tools as one of our keys to success, especially when it comes to our franchise stores," stated Teresa T. Bautista, Franchise Planning & Support Manager of Philippine Seven Corp. "By communicating constantly with our franchisees, we are able to establish goals on the level of performance and support that our company commits to those who wish to invest in 7-Eleven," Bautista added.

Bautista revealed that as early as the qualification process, franchise applicants get to experience interactivity in the 7-Eleven communication process through the Franchise Specialist, who guides the new investor through the steps required to qualify for the franchise.

Once the franchise is awarded, the franchisee is assigned to an Operations Field Consultant (OFC), who basically conducts store hands-on training and monitoring in the operation of the new store and later becomes the primary communication conduit between Philippine Seven Corp. and its new franchise investment. Through the OFC, the franchisee receives regular updates and reminders on the standards set by 7-Eleven, while also serving as the feedback medium for issues, concerns and suggestions that may arise from the franchisee.

"The OFC forms the backbone of the Philippine Seven Corp. franchising system. He and she are the ones that there is always constant contact between the company and our franchisees," explained Jimenez. "Each OFC handles a maximum of 6 stores and conducts regular visits to the said stores every month to track the progress of the franchisee and assist in issues that may arise in the course of store operations. In this manner, we are able to ensure our franchisees stay profitable since Philippine Seven Corp. is always there to support them every step of the way in the growth of their business," Jimenez added.

Aside from the OFC, the company has also instituted additional modes of communication to streamline support mechanisms for its franchise investments.

An email and phone call system instantly connects the franchisees to the Philippine Seven Corp. head office, where franchise officers, rigorously trained to provide service for the franchisees, are always ready to respond and assist in store related requests.

There is also an online bulletin board system (BBS), which franchisees can use for issues and concerns arising from store equipment maintenance.

Philippine Seven Corp. also established a call center to further increase the response time for addressing requests of the franchisees.

The result of all these is a communication flow that has allowed both Philippine Seven Corp. and its 7-Eleven franchisees to grow as a phenomenal rate, while building and strengthening the partnership it has established with its franchisees.

7-Eleven is available for franchise in the areas of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Manila, Makati and Quezon City. For inquiries, call 726-9988, 0920-9186611 or visit www.7-eleven.com.ph.

Will Manila have the longest queue ...

From page B1

about the wonderful uses of the doughnuts.

As to why Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corp. chose Metro as its partner in the Philippines is largely due to their shared histories, say Salud and Fuentebella.

While Krispy Kreme began in 1937, Rico started in 1946. Both have "secret recipes" and both are family owned for the most part of their histories.

Salud and Fuentebella say it is a "mutual respect" for Krispy Kreme's choice of partners who have experience in food.

Their franchise application guideline states: "Applicants must have success ownership and operating experience or previous ownership and operating experience of multi-unit food service operations in the market that you desire to develop."

In Korea, the famous Lotte company acquired the franchise for Krispy Kreme. It opened in 2000.

But when Krispy Kreme went to Asia (it is now in Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand), it adopted a different business model.

It made the doughnut shops cozier—not like the white stark walls of the shops in the United States.

"The environment is more conducive for people to gather," says Fuentebella. "This is the model we are adopting in the Philippines."

Substantial investment

The Real American Doughnut Co. is required to open 20 Krispy Kreme stores in five years in the country. Salud and Fuentebella are aware on the investment in each store and they do not want to reveal the franchise cost. But the Krispy Kreme website is quite revealing.

"Our franchisees must possess the capital sufficient to fund the development of the market. We can only grant franchises on an area development basis. Specifically, our area developers are required to build multiple stores (3-8 or more) in a market. The minimum cash net worth requirement is $250 million or $5 million per store to be developed, whichever is greater. We reserve a $50 million or $1 million per store to be developed, whichever is greater. We reserve the right to waive these requirements in our sole discretion," it says.

Salud says, "It's a fresh experience. There are freshly made products and Filipinos can eat this way. We love to eat and sharing is a big thing with us. A box of doughnuts can be shared."

The venture will also create substantial employment of about 20 to 40 persons per shift and each store is envisioned to have two shifts.

Salud (left) and Fuentebella

ARCHITECT'S perspective of the PP Bonifacio Krispy store

Coop cashes in on low-salt, salt-less, boneless dried fish

By Juan Buzandar Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMANSIA, Camarines Sur—In just a little over a year since it started operations, a cooperative here has emerged as THE brand for a variety of low-salt, salt-less and boneless dried fish products.

Registered on Aug. 31, 2005, the Calabanga Dried Fish Processors Cooperative (CDFPC) pioneered the production and marketing of dried local fish called also as lapet-lapetan in sales, which can only be found in San Miguel Bay here.

Dried also is common in this country, but this boneless variety is a newcomer to the market, locals claim, the also is tasteless and tastes better than Cebu's popular dunggit.

Unlike the common dunggit, the dried boneless also, as named because of its oil, are easy eater, is nutritional and aloud from fresh fish measuring an average of five inches long and 1.5 inches wide. The larger variety measures seven inches long and two inches wide.

Co-op production manager Isidro B. Pantastico Jr., 49, said the workers follow standard procedures, from raw material selection to processing and packaging to maintain the quality of the products.

Pantastico said the co-op only uses fresh mediums and large fish to make boneless also, so that a 2.5 kilo fish can produce a kilo of dried fish.

Labor intensive

He said it takes 18-24 hours to complete the cycle from cleaning to soaking and to drying. The dried fish are then left to cool before they are packed into 200-gram packs for distribution to the market.

He said the co-op learned the technology and production procedures from technicians of the the Department of Trade and Industry.

That process has become their trade secrets, he said.

Pantastico said the locals already know how to eat fish, but the DTI technicians taught them a more organized and efficient approach to drying fish.

He said the local government unit (LGU) have tapped the support of other government agencies to provide them relevant assistance to enhance their initiatives.

"The LGU here is convinced that the town can make a name in the production of dried fish and fish sauce so salt cannot take us to disuse, following the 'one town, one product' advocacy call of the President," explained Mayor Evelyn Fe.

He said the dried fish processing business has shown great trade potentials with the LGU actively supporting the venture by looking for markets.

She said the LGU, for instance, has asked the cooperative to market its products among government offices and employees, who could most be developed to realize fortune.

Marketing strategy

The mayor said the current marketing strategy of tapping government officials and employees has worked to the point that the cooperative now has to increase production to meet the demand.

Moreover said the cooperative makes good use its supply constraints even during the lean months when prices of raw materials soar.

"We have to do it if only to maintain long-term, client-supplier relations," the production manager said, he added that during lean months, fresh also goes for P60 to P100 a kilo.

Pantastico said that aside from boneless dried also, the cooperative also produces salt-less pit (the also's dried as an that pops when fried), flaklak and dried dried anchovies.

He said production is increasing, and lapet-lapetan is specialty of the dried anchovies, a small elongated pelagic fish about two inches long.

Opportunities

With the cooperatives fingers ahead and CDFPC dare fueled it, Alalayan said the cooperative's activities has given new life to dried fish processing activities in the village of Sabang, where the cooperative's facilities are located.

Alalayan said said he does marketing and product promotion and represents the CDFPC in government-sponsored trade exhibition outside Camarines Sur.

"We discovered that quality products and packaging open up marketing opportunities," Alalayan said.

He said the cooperative now, has been taken note that quality and product packaging make chefs beat competitors.

Alalayan said that with more orders coming in, the cooperative expects to treat double production to 200 kilos a month. From the current 100 kilos.

LOW-SALT, salt-less and boneless dried fish products of the Calabanga Dried Fish Processors Cooperative

Cases no traveler can do without

By Franco Estonan Von M. Cena

IF YOU THINK TRAVEL BAGS would shave off your pockets, **better think** twice.

With the release of Singapore Travelers's newest collection, budget travelers, executive and big freaks can now shop a piece or two sans the guilt of spending lavishly on bags and luggage.

True to its tagline, "Less Cost, First Class," American Tourister addresses the needs of the growing number of value conscious travelers via the introduction of its latest, tastefully chic, pocess apply designed for business and leisure travelers.

The line includes the wheeled Elite, which comes in trendy candy colors; the multiroller Attorney, usually used suave; the stunning and the Special Edition, and SIBIT.

Each American Tourister product is backed and guaranteed by Samsonite, the brand almost synonymous to Tourister's quality and durability. It is, after all, now under Samsonite's line after it was acquired in 2005 by the Samsonite Corporation.

Although sweeping the Samsonite label, American Tourister is primarily targeted at travelers who are in right kind, get and those who would not like to shell out big bucks. It was, after all, American Tourister's aim to offer products at a moderate price without compromising quality and functionality.

American Tourister is no latecomer in the luggage industry. It was in 1962 when Arid Industries started the company in Providence, Rhode Island with the high hopes of coming up with a tough suitcase that could sell for a dollar.

In the 1970s, the company started experimenting with new materials and modern designs with the growing population of travelers. As time increased, travel started the following years, the company constructed its design facilities and developed new styles responding to the shift in demand by individual functionalities.

With innovation, Tourister eventually succeeded in introducing into the luggage industry.

Over 58 years later, the brand continues the tradition of quality and design at great value, coming out with a wide range of travel bags—from large multi-colored suitcases and smaller carry-ons to backpacks and laptop bags.

To date, American Tourister is one of the most recognized brand names in the world, with 40 percent brand awareness in the United States.

Built on providing quality, American Tourister extends its products to quality and durability.

The bags, now in different colors, answer the demand of numerous seeking stylish and trendy bags. Bags are some part of the parents fashion, and like an Easter, marketing and video some director.

Customer satisfaction is also one of the primary considerations of the company as it offers warranty terms for its goods. One will only need to surrender the product in any Samsonite service center worldwide, factors said.

Last year, American Tourister started to remodelish its presence in the Philippines, by products are now sold in over 60 outlets nationwide, including The Travel Club, Duty Free Philippines, The Landmark, SM Department Store and Robinsons Department Stores.

SPECIAL Edition Duffle on wheels

BUSINESS Office Case Plus front pocket details

ELITE Front Pockets

Social accountability the Naga City way

By Gabriel Hidalgo Bordado
Contributor

A WORLD BANK REPORT "GOVernance Matters: Worldwide governance indicators" was quoted by the Asian Business Services as stating that "the ability of the Philippine corporate governance and anti-corruption has faltered over the past eight years despite its vibrant democratic society and free press."

A day or two after that report was presented on the "Salient" of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund panel has held in Singapore, it was Naga City Mayor Jesse M. Robredo's turn to reassure the international community that the Philippines is not exactly a hopeless case despite a 13.3-percent plunge (within a 7-year time frame) in its ranking at the so-called "control of corruption" barometer.

In a paper titled "Governance and Social Accountability Mechanisms—Naga City, Philippines," presented in Bethesda in Singapore, the 2006 Singapore Conference for governments service oriented that the four pillars of good governance—transparency, predictability, accountability, and participation—could very well support application programs and projects to curb corruption problems in the country.

Robredo noted in his paper the World Bank definition of social accountability as "an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic engagement, i.e., in which it is ordinary citizens and/or civil society organizations who participate directly or indirectly in ensuring accountability."

By this postulated the interaction of good governance and accountability, supporting, in the process, civic autonomy of "enabling public officials more responsible for government behavior and responsive to the needs from which they derive their authority."

The city mayor highlighted four actual programs in Naga City bolstered by such four pillars of good governance:

• Kasimbayan sa Nagawagan ("Partners in Development"), designed by conceived as a social building program, it is seen as a poverty alleviating initiative espousing tripartism (i.e., the local and national government agencies, urban poor associations backed up by nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners working hand in hand to resolve settlement issues) and transparency in all its transactions. Now on its 17th year, Kasimbayan sa Kamayugan has benefited 8,783 urban poor households.

• Local SEIE councils and the Empowerment Ordinance. Naga, through accreditations incorporated the Peoples Council composed of all the city's accredited nongovernment and people's organizations in the city, enabling them to direct by participate in the conceptualization and implementation of city government policies and programs.

• The 1-Governance Program. This further expands the limits of people power by actively engaging in the development process individuals who opt not to join formal groups or organizations. Optimizing the use of information and communication technology, the program seeks to lead citizens to "information openness as a key principle underpinning governance," on the mayor aptly puts it.

• Performance planning and budgeting initiatives. This year, the city government of Naga has embarked on an additional scheme to tap enough existing and mandated local socials and special bodies, virtually all sectors in the crafting of the annual budget for 2007, incorporating the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) set by the United Nations. Participative approaches, including multiple levels of consultations, are once again being used to the fullest here.

Of course, other LGUs have come up with their own initiatives in good governance and curbing corruption.

Along with Naga, they constitute the "shining stars" which, hopefully, will lead the nation out of the quagmire of corruption and underdevelopment.

But the journey, as indicated by the World Bank report, will certainly be torturous and protracted. Robredo, for his part, shared some lessons learned in Naga's decades-long journey. That local society must create a strong voice; that a variety of social accountability mechanisms matter; that, since building up on others; and that local development planning and budgeting run further than mere administrative efficiency.

Perhaps, echoing the sentiments of the majority of his countrymen, Robredo wound up his presentation by affirming that there would always be "a better way" for his benighted Philippines.

(The author is the vice mayor of Naga City. Tel. No.—473-2606, Email: gabriel.bordado@yahoo.com, Cellphone—0917-7959611)

Your $ can earn more with PSBank's HIGHER RATES

1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.65%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.80%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.80%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

PSBank US Dollar Time Deposit

Sunday BIZ

Look to Lucban for a gustatory good time

TRACIT hideout sells the best cakes in the public market

TOWN marker

SWEET treats like these await visitors.

ILOG & Fly is one of the leading sellers of Lucban longganisa.

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT'S HARD TO KEEP A progressive town like Lucban, Quezon, down.

That's why despite the spate of rain, blown roofs of houses and buildings and crop damage in the wake of Typhoon "Milenyo," Lucban is back on its feet.

Lucban is a historic town at the foot of mystic Mt. Banahaw, which is known around the country as the birthplace of revolutionary apolinario dela Cruz or Hermano Pule and the home of unique delicacies delights.

These include the longganisa and pansit that bear the town's name, as well as baked goods such as hojas, upas and pancakes.

Visitors come from all over and not only during the colorful Pahiyas fiesta in May.

The fun prompted the local government to support tourism activities and include the town in the culinary tour across different towns of Quezon.

It is hoped that in promoting tourism, micro-small and medium-scale enterprises will be encouraged to cash in on the influx of tourists.

Old houses along Quezon Street have been converted into shops.

Benguet to offer organic strawberries by December

CHOCOLATES and strawberries (right) are processed at the Benguet State University.

BAGUIO CITY—BENGUET HAS A CHRISTMAS gift for organic fruit lovers: luscious strawberries can-not wright from the farm.

Dr. Rogelio Colcleng, Benguet State University president, says that they would be offering organic strawberries in stores this December.

"It will not just be any strawberry but the sweet Charlie type which is very sweet and still very acne-free," says Colcleng in a forum here on Thursday.

Dexter Charlie, which is larger than the usual varieties, was first grown in Argentina but is popular in Florida, he says.

He says they have started to set up standards for international quality control for organic products beginning with flowers coffee and strawberries.

He says production of organic strawberries will begin on the water-impound plant which they are resurrecting with the help of the La Trinidad Water District.

The water will be used to irrigate the 15-hectare strawberry farm on the BSU campus in the Ci-to La Trinidad.

Other prime considerations would be the soil quality center, which have been amending the strawberries here for decades, Colcleng says.

Jose Dalmacio of the BSU's department of soil science says that they are going to wage a zero-against-odor campaign in their organic strawberries.

They are running multiwatia longlegiensis, native predatory mites, for the control of spider mites in their laboratory. The predatory mites can kill the spider mites.

"The beauty of organic farming is that this can be possible. When pesticides are used, the predatory mites are killed," Dalmacio says.

He says this was the experience in their use of chalcopsis wasps in the fight against the diamondback moth, which destroyed the cabbage and other vegetables crucifers years ago.

He says the massive use of pesticides then had been killing the wasps while the diamondback moth had become resistant to chemical inputs. Only when the farmers stopped using pesticides did the chalcopsis wasp become effective, he says.

The strawberry industry here used to be so dependent on pesticides that although insecticide consultants paid to join strawberries, they are advised to wash them thoroughly before eating them.

Cutting into organic strawberries are not really expensive and could be cheaper in the long run.

SWEET CHARLIE. These ordinary looking strawberries cultivated at the bank of the Benguet State University are certified organic.

FUTURE FOOD. Organic strawberries may soon be sold in grocery stores.

"The cost of production is in fact lower. It is only in labor that we spend more because organic farming means more manual work," he says.

"Compost would be used to rehabilitate and enrich the soil. We have lots of that in the basin."

He said that they would not need greenhouses to produce organic strawberries. BSU and other commercial strawberry farms have covers the ground with plastic to prevent weeds from raising over the plots. Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Chocolate candies are becoming a popular byproduct of the Benguet State University's food processing experiments.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chela Bautista-Fermoso

SHOP for Anna Sui, Chloé, Emporio Armani, Issey Miyake, Roisir and other brand-name clothes, and fashion accessories.

SURVIVORS all and ready to serve: (from left) Bernina Ocampo, Ina Margolin Qian, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and Ria Domingo

Shopping in pink

It's a guiltless pleasure at the first-ever bazaar organized by I Can Serve Oct. 14-15 at The Loft, Rockwell, Makati, to mark breast-cancer awareness month

Text by Anne A. Jardines
Photos by Ditto Vecino

IT'S THE BAZAAR DESIGNED to end all bazaars. High-end fashion and the finest of home accessories will be up for grabs in one marketplace at a fraction of their (usual) prices. Shop for Marc Jacobs or Vera Wang clothes or scour for charming home ornaments from Pottery Barn—all for a good cause.

"Tickled Pink," the first-ever bazaar staged by the women's nonprofit breast-cancer advocacy group I Can Serve Foundation, is set to take off Oct. 14-15 at The Loft, Rockwell, Makati. The food center will feature up to 15 select vendors, mostly local superstars that never sell or display their products in the country.

"We wanted to give the bazaar a cute name. Since the color pink is identified with breast cancer, awareness campaigns and the like, it's an apt name for the event," said breast-cancer survivor Bernina Ocampo, wife to Sen. Sergio Osmeña.

A generous 22 percent of revenues collected from the event goes to the foundation that is in dire need of funds for its nationwide projects and campaigns for breast-cancer awareness. I Can Serve hopes to have a repeat of its most successful undertaking so far, "Silver Linings," a symposium held last year attended by over 600 participants from across the country.

The lifestyle bazaar will feature clothes

WOMEN ON MOISSANITE
"I mix and match Moissanite with my diamonds and pearls. Perfect!"
A gem so diamond like, it's almost impossible to tell the difference.
MOISSANITE

Afrita da Best!
Tuna bliss – that's Century Tuna Afritada!
Each bite bursts with the deliciously blended flavors of chop-sue tuna meat, red and ripe tomatoes plus tangy red and green bell peppers and special spices... brightening your day, warming your palate, comforting your cravings for a hearty, home-made meal. Luscious and juicy, sumptuous and saucy, Century Tuna Afritada oozes with the healthy goodness of Omega-3. Best for your heart, best for your appetite, best for you! Truly Afritadabest!
Century TUNA Afritada
the Supermeat

SOFA, as good 3-seg. P600 (cushion pillows, P200, big pillows, P350

TWIG table runner (P180) is both decorative and functional.

ROMY Glorioso's bed cover (P2,500), hand-beaded pillows (P1,200) and silk pillows (P500) bring life to the master's bedroom.

Home accents from a homegrown talent

PILLOW talk. Wonder you go for this plain, chic striped or the hand-beaded ones, Glorioso's pillows give any room a double dose of style and comfort.

JACUZZI dreams. Chiffon tops embellished with sequins and gold thread, P190-P1,200

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esparis

Give your interiors a dose of elegance with Romy Glorioso's futons, cushions, pillows and bed covers

ROMY GLORIOSO, ASIAN atelier extraordinaire, is at a glorious point in his life.

His business is flourishing and not only are clients flocking to his home in Lucban for more of his beautiful creations, serious spas and real estate companies have also approached him, asking him to give their staff's resort areas and interiors the Glorioso touch.

Imperial Home Corporation's Tagaytay Meridian is no different. The residential resort, which prides itself in being a spa community, has asked Glorioso to add a dose of elegance to the community's exclusive villas which are now on the market.

Glorioso's futons, cushions, French pillows, bed covers and table runners find perfect harmony with the very low furniture created by Iranian buildings. Glorioso's passion for all things Asian is evident in his creations—in the rich materials and fabrics and attention to detail.

"Earth colors are a good choice for homes, especially like mine—it exudes good energy," he says.

His travels to India, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma continually inspire Glorioso's creativity. He likes using beads to add accents to pieces and has a knack for finding the perfect indigenous fabrics.

Aside from accessories for the home, Glorioso also designs clothes. He is now focusing on resort wear—his "linong pants and kimono-inspired jackets are must-buys.

The best part? His pieces are not mass-produced—each one feels and looks like a work of art.

BRIGHTEN up your kids' room with bears (P1,100), pillows (P320), striped pillows (P580) and swag (P380).

Romy's shop is at Bienahan Subdivision 1 in Lucban, Quezon. Call 042-5408411 or 0920-3760322. Visit www.imperialhomecorp.com

HOBO bags

RAFFIA shopper and handbags

SHVELOPE purses and leather cell-phone cases

Shopping in pink

From page C1

provided by Antonio Aragon, Camille Gonzalez and Veronica del Rosario that include fashionable brands such as BCBG and Diane Von Furstenberg; jewelry from Avatar Accessories Inc., Bellisa Orlando Jewelry, Victoria Montt Collection Inc. and Jacqui Bonnett's Silverlux; handbags from Ching Feliciano, Tahanan Gift and Fashion Accessories, Mar Unique Int'l.; home décor from Rapid Handicrafts, FLAE Accessories de Casa, Madreta Arte Talleres, Rank Burgos' 30s Craft Accents and Pottery Barn; and spa packages from The Farm at San Benito.

"These are all brand-new items. Clothes are factory overruns sourced from China," Gonzalez said.

Conscious effort

Gonzalez said I Can Serve has partnered with the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) to conceptualize and execute the bazaar's interior design, while Pinamilk Inc. has agreed to supply the décor. She said it has been a conscious effort to veer away from the typical look of many bazaars. "This is, after all, a support group whose campaigns include free haircuts and wig demonstrations.

"Everyone is touched by breast cancer one way or the other," said one of the bazaar's organizers, Ira Angeli de Dios.

The devastating disease affects many Filipinas, continued Gonzalez, and many more are indigents who seek help from I Can Serve for financial assistance. It is debilitating enough to be diagnosed with breast cancer, she said, and more so when patients do not have the means for a decent treatment that can only be had to half a million pesos.

"Through public support of "Tickled Pink," money raised will go a long way to help empower cancer-stricken women with informed decisions about their health. I Can Serve believes in a holistic approach to battling cancer. Aside from having a lineup of competent doctors and an e-group support from about 100 members, the foundation also has seminars on meditation and beauty tips.

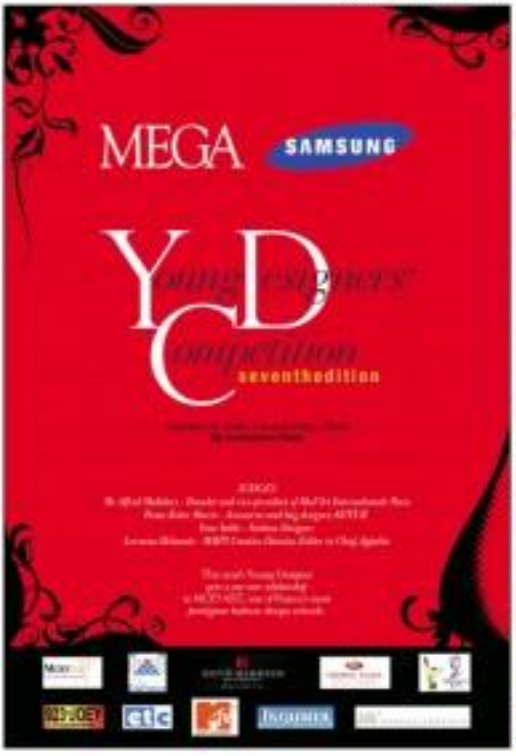
"Tickled Pink" is sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, PSEi, Rockwell Land, Pinamilk Inc., 93.5 Jrey Gently Productions Phils., BBDC, Mario Balducci, Southeast Asia Food Inc., Nokia Phils., Pratt Magic, Jo Malone Series, Lobbianco Alfonso, Cynthia Villar, Degree and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

For [illegible] e-mail icanserve@yahoo.com or call 5073942. E-mail the author at cpdelrosario@inquirer.com.ph

JEWELRY available in the US, Paris, Spain, Belgium, Greece and Russia can now be had at a fraction of the price.

BAZAARS are great sources for wardrobe makeovers

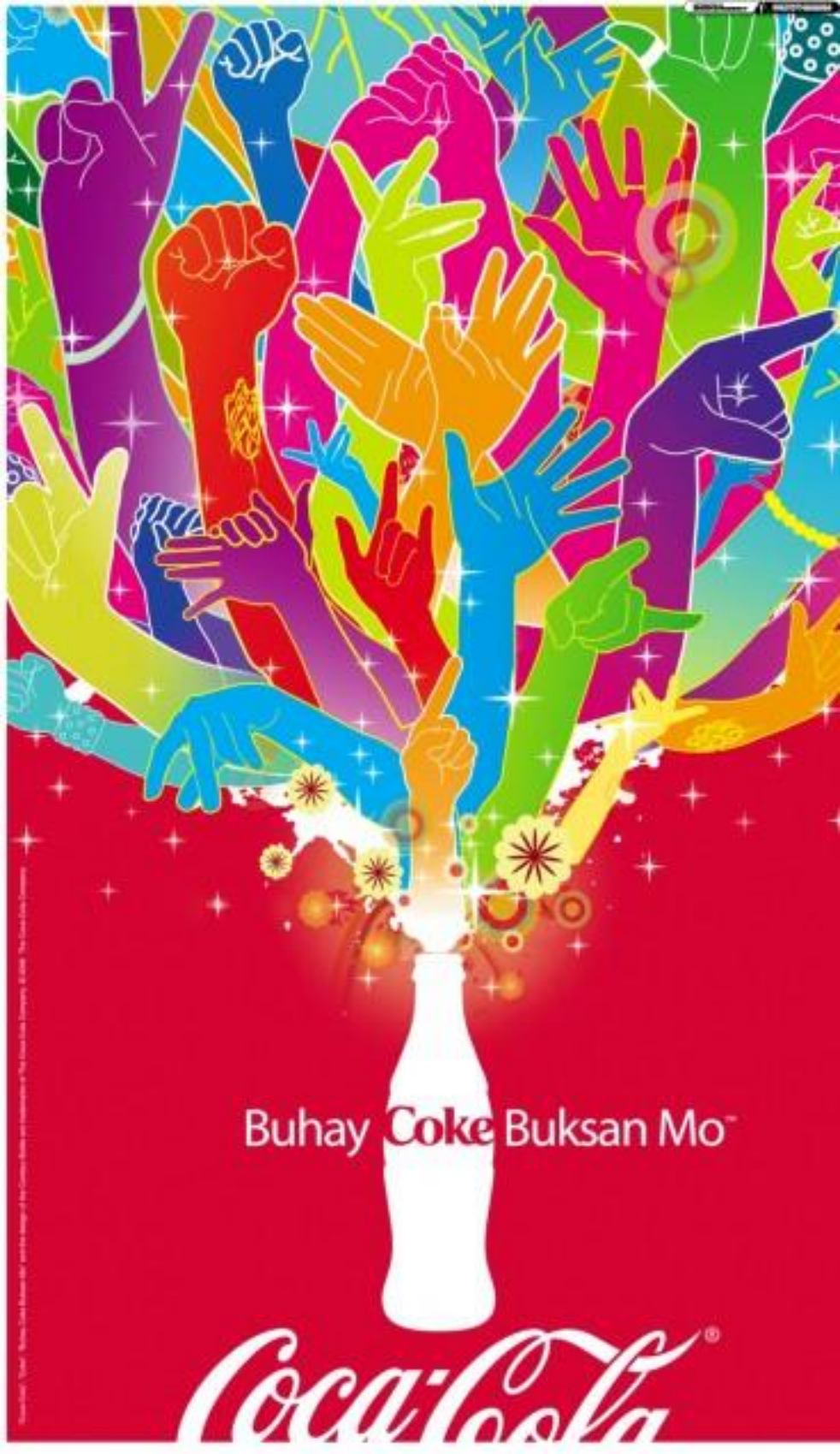
BEAD necklaces



Call to readers

The Alliance that Holds the Wellness Ace

Hospira hooks up to a more powerful WeRoam


Buhay Coke Buksan Mo™
Coca-Cola

Ibuhos ang saya hanggang lahat ay mahawa.

Buksan ang sarili. 'Wag pigilin ang tawa.

Hatakin ang barkada. Game kahit saan mapunta.

Bagong trip, ba't di subukan? Sama ka, 'wag magpaiwan!

Kilalanin ang kapitbahay. Batiin ang kaaway.

'Pag nadapa, bangon lang. 'Pag may tumawa, bow na lang.

Kung manalo, eh di masaya. Kung matalo, may next time pa.

Kung mahal mo, 'pakita mo. Walang mawawala sa 'yo.

Pangarap, 'wag bitawan. Malay mo. Subok lang!

Sama-sama. Salu-salo. Buhay Coke, Buksan Mo!

METRO Society editor Lia Bernardo and Metro Society columnist Marivic Zulaybar

METROWEAR designer Katrina Goulbourn and Chris Feist

Inspirasi Interior Jupiter Alcorin Sadhwani and Rizi Francisco Prince

COOL couple Gabby and Jo Estrella

HOT SEXY couple Tootie and Norman Criscuyo

SEA PRINCESS with bold and beautiful Rosana Reeves

Interview with the vampire

TESSA!

EMERGY VAMPIRES DO EXIST. Unconsciously, I have been feasting on anyone that comes within meters of me. My energy level has been depleting lately, due to the major preparations for my Assumption Vehada that debuts a week from today.

All the work has so many minute details that need to be personally attended to—painting embellishments on costumes, buying fabrics, photocopying magazines—all for the good of the school and so that all of us alumnae all have a fabulous affair to remember for years.

A young, lively group of the Assumption high-school Femme Fatales makes students even my latest victims, as I entered my high school years in a talk to them. Nine bright and enthusiastic students from different levels came with their moderator, Ms. Leah Sirkmachine, to have a mini-reunion in practice-teaching.

It was timely to have them in my house and get a glimpse of the high-school scene of this era. So much has changed in technology in Assumption and teaching techniques and yet, at the same time, so many things have not been altered such as simplicity and fidelity to duty. I guess all these years have not changed the Assumption values and teachings, as instilled by the Assumption nuns.

The students said that the classic "nood-to-nod the fish balls" line still exists. Some mentioned nuns and taking homework and term teachers but all in all, they seem unanimously proud of being Assumptionistas.

The girls are living in very exciting times, full of ambition, passion and compassion in between their lines was talk of being socially responsible, remaining God-fearing, and, with big smiles on their faces, talk of boys, fashion and sweepers. I would relate to all from my memories of high school, minus the part about sweepers, of course. I found it amusing that these kids were born only a decade and a half ago. I did really needed to rack up their energy levels, which combined, overcame my vitality.

Meeting with bubbling Assumption students, I try to draw their young energy to myself and revive my flagging vitality

JEWELRY designer Manny Capulla

Tequila nights

Going down memory lane seems to be the new trend now even on the social circuit. The launch party of 1800 Tequila teamed with DJ Boyet Almazan playing music from the '80s. Host for the launch was Crystal, while Shaina and Her Band entertained the bubbly party people.

Exclusively distributed by Premier Wine & Spirits, the 1800 Tequila portfolio includes different concoctions of smooth vanilla, butterscotch and even chocolate. I am not much of a drinker, but put chocolate in anything and I will drink it.

Banana days

Meanwhile, Metro Society magazine's second anniversary party at the Shangri-La Edsa Hotel Ballroom brought back the wildly gay and vibrant days of Coco Banana. Innuendo was thrown out the window, beginning with Chris Gheleta's invitation featuring two disco balls and bananas—only a source list bringing back a bygone era, sponsored by Mossimo, Globe Platinum, Vitrostone and Mango Rhum, the anniversary party was held the night after the killer Alabaya storm and became a nostalgic evening of spirited abandon and a chance for the younger generation.

To the late '70s up to the mid-'80s, "I Love the Night Life" could only mean Coco Banana. Metro Society and legendary party king Ernest Santiago brought Coco back for one night. So my lolly-darling classmate Evelyn Farber said, it was just great to be with old friends and really relive those glorious days of being carefree spirit fueled by unlimited booze.

Coco Banana was home to our local version of La Cage aux Folles. That evening was full of female impersonators, an impressive array of hair-dos and overflowing boobs, all combining to make the Metro Society party a total blast.

Lately, I have been seeing a lot of the ABS-CBN Publishing family because this whole month is the Metro-wear Series. In support of Philippine fashion, Runaway and Metro Magazine are hosting several fashion shows featuring the country's top couturiers showing off their latest holiday collections. Last week featured beautiful creations by Rajo Laurel, Dennis Lustico and Rhett Eala. Tomorrow at the Rockwell Loft, there will another show featuring Lulu Tan-Gan, Katrina Goulbourn and Jun Escareis.

Be there to support Philippine fashion, because no one else will if you don't. Besides, if you're an energy vampire like me, you gotta dress the part!

E-mail the author at eugenia.apostol@inquirer.com.ph

ASSUMPTIONISTS seniors Lysa Bernardo, Angelique de la Cruz, Alisa Lim, Honey Faith Caverdi Almeda, Jessica Reana and teacher Leah Valenzuela. Seated: Betsy Reyes, Marielle Guevara, Cara Estacio

FUN SET Vicky Zulaica, Noel Manzano, Joc Zulaica and Gabby Lopez

JOEY Lim-ahan, Crystal Alan Bolino and Teddy Dario

RED HOT friends Marissa Lopa, Aiden Barrera and Maricielle Ligon

ABS-CBN Publishing head Thelma San Juan, Philip Cu-Unjieng and Raja Laurel

SHU LEHRJRA girls Tina Tirso, Tessa Dragon and Xeng Zuzuca

LEGENDARY Coco Banana emcee Ernest Santiago

EXPERT staff of top designer Raja Laurel with his mainstay models

COCO Banana relives its glorious days

BENCH king Ben Chan, Maureen Dizon, Kevin Pascual and Miguel Pastor

Symposium on abortion

THE WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT 200 Class Divisional Theories and Development) under Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio is holding a symposium titled "Abortion as a Reproductive Right: Women's Perspectives" at the UP College of Social Work and Community Development room 301 at 1 p.m., Dec. 8.

Various women's organizations will present their perspectives on this issue. Participating organizations are Lilibasan, Women's Crisis Center, Family Planning Organizations of the Philippines, Education Forum, Pinklotus and Catholics. The first half of the forum will be devoted to prospective thinking, after which there will be an open forum.

Attendance is free. Call 09178631187 or E-mail dd3mail@gmail.com.

Back-to-back seminars on autism

THE AUTISM SOCIETY PHILIPPINES presents back-to-back seminars on Dec. 14 at the Asian Social Institute, 153 Leon Guinto cor. Roces St., Malate, Manila.

"TEACCHing at Home and School" will be at 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, with Alfredo "Dang" Roa as speaker.

The session will focus on structured teaching as an effective teaching strategy for children with autism and related Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Scheduled from 1-4 p.m. is "Transitioning Individuals with Special Needs" by Archie David, program director of the Independent Living Learning Center and assistant professor of the UP College of Allied Medical Professions.

Call 9256941 or 456-8711, e-mail info@autismphils.org/autismphils@pldtdsl.net.ph.

ONE BOTTLE of Chivas is all it takes to take partying to a whole new level.

HEN WHO MATTER. Meg Romero and Freddie Guerrero enjoy the scene at the latest Chivas bash in Metro Pisi Resto Bar.

PERNOD-RICARD'S Cheryl Qua and Joey Pineda can't be seen without their Chivas.

PERNOD-RICARD managing director Julien Hennard

CHIVAS TO CHINAS! Jasmin Magsajo, Karen Carrasco and salesmaster DJ Emmanuel with their favorite mixes in hand

CHEVAS! Simmi Phris, Aristotle, Joey and Shi-Ra try with Pernod-Ricard's Paul Bangs and Christopher Lucero

Manhattan-themed party rocks Manila

PEOPLE RECENTLY FLOCKED TO THE Chivas Shi bash at the Pisi Resto Bar of the Shangri-la Commercial Complex. The theme of the party was Manhattan, New York.

Fresh off the plane, Bangkok-based DJ Emanuel Skinner took his place behind the decks and started a funky-free for-all.

"I love it when I'm feeling the crowd and they're feeling me," said the American mixmaster. "It's great being able to share what you have."

Skinner played the sounds of New York as well as his brand of "pumping funky tribal disko-house music."

The Manhattan mania at the Shrine Pisi was co-sponsored by Smirnoff as the Embassy before.

Also providing fun to the affair were the graphic designs and motion graphics of VJ EEK and the visual performance of Jenn Pierre Brown.

The clubbing people helped themselves to the night's special blends from Chivas such as Green Tea, Sunrise and Cooler.

The source's party-business said they would soon be the scene as Chivas Regal's next party stop.

BEAUTIFUL faces all in a row - Taymondale Isabel Rocco, TV host Princesse Reyes-de and Rissa Samson

MAGICIAN JR says Kat Nakanishi's cards are the tricks.

DJ STEWART has the crowd grooving to his Hollywood breakbeats.

CHINAS party lovers Maxine Chua, Donna Pita and Karen Pearcal

FOLTVE got mate Leslie and Cedric Kua are all smiles as the back.

SMART Buddy

Ang Saya!

Pagdating Sa e-LOAD Eto Ang PinakaSULIT Sa TEXT!

ALL TEXT 20 LOAD

- **P20 lang, may 100 SMART-to-SMART** text messages ka na! Enjoy AS LOW AS P0.20/text.
- **PINAKAMARAMING LOAD OUTLETS!** Over 800,000 na magkalat nationwide.
- **NO REGISTRATION!** Kaya wala nang hintayan pa.
- **PINAKAMARAMING** KA-TEXT sa **PINAKAMALAKING** Network!

Pagdating sa e-LOAD, walang tatapat sa SMART! Kaya dito ka na sa leader!

DAHIL SMART TAYO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

30 loving years, and counting

THEY LOVED EACH other 30 years ago. They are just as in love today.

Mesino and Zenaida Balajadia, two well-known personalities in the pharmaceutical industry, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at a homecum-hotel on Mactan Island, Cebu.

Mesino Balajadia's original plan was to celebrate on their 28th wedding anniversary. But his wife, Zenaida, thought it wasn't such a great idea. It would be such a long wait and she might let out a relentless bark by then.

So how did the idea of a celebration begin? A month before their anniversary, the Balajadias attended a wedding at Shangri-La Mactan. Before that event, the couple just wanted to celebrate their anniversary by going to Siargao for a vacation. But after they left the hotel with the resort, they decided they should just bring the whole family there to have a simple and relaxed family celebration instead.

Mesino wanted to bring the whole family to Mactan for a simple celebration, but Zenaida had other plans. She wanted those relatives, friends, business associates and partners to surprise Mesino with a wedding!

She was not going to wait for their 30th anniversary for a grand celebration. For her, this year was just the right time to celebrate.

But little did Zenaida know that Mesino had a surprise for her as well. With the help of his close aides, they produced a video interview of Mesino expressing his love for his wife.

The details of the wedding were superb.

The color motif at the Shangri-La's Ocean Pavilion was light turquoise with a touch of pink. The Caribbean Band of Cebu provided the beautiful music for the celebration. The theme was 1950s and 1970s classics and ballroom music as well.

And the food was part of the Under the Stars Package of the hotel. It was a buffet of mostly grilled-on-the-spot seafoods—a mix of rock lobsters, tiger prawns and a lot more, fresh and delicious. There also served as complements the menu. Various cold appetizers and dessert plates were served as well.

The flowers and wedding coordination were provided by Bonquest & Blueberry by Jenny Monasca and the Castillo of Sweet Beginnings, respectively. Guests loved their venue of style. They did a great job with the bouquets, in choosing Cattleyas. They were also stunning the whole surprise. He also loved the reception. Without her the wedding wouldn't have been a success.

Likewise, fans off to Sirao and fancy, sweets coordinators of Shangri-La Mactan. They were also a big part of the wedding's success. Finally, the family is grateful to life, and Ms Jen Lucas who helped in so many ways with the wedding plans and preparations.

WITH their grandchildren

Super-typhoon

The scene was very much different when the Balajadias got married on June 27, 1976, after a very short three-week engagement. They were both 23 at that time.

A super typhoon was raging during their wedding day one of the biggest to hit the city of Iloilo. In The flooded streets made it almost impossible to pass through them.

Everyone wanted to postpone the wedding, but Mesino refused to cancel. The reason—the hogs to be served had already been

(LOVING 01)

Rosicrucian Secrets Revealed !!!
MEDITATION
Develop and Achieve:
• Health & Longevity • Psychic Abilities
• Multiple Intelligences • Prosperous Life
FREE SEMINAR
Reserve a slot for:
Oct 14, 2006 (3:30-5pm) at Shervin Plaza (in Makati Square), Chino Roces St. Makati
Call 867-1237, (0918)899-9977
Or 33, 2006 (3:30-5pm) at U.P. ISSI, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
Call 427-7419, (0918)780-4390

POWER MEETING SUCCESS GUARANTEED!

FOR AS LOW AS P 9,750+
INCLUSIONS
• 4 hrs of the function room for 4 hours
• 50% discount on function room rental on occasion of 24 hours
• 50% morning & afternoon snacks and lunch
• 50% complete meal facilities and free flowing coffee
Elle Garden Place

Book shows the way to salvation

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Derecho

When Edgar Dy Sioco was growing up, he remembers kneeling with his siblings in front of the altar at home praying the Holy Rosary of Mysteries.

His grandmother, Fe Arrastia Perez de Vera, mother of his father, the late Teodoro de Vera, saw to it that her grandchildren prayed the Rosary every day.

Many years later, with children of his own, Edgar chose to put appreciation for the Rosary that helped shape his life into an upright faithful son of the Catholic Church by writing "Catholic Soul." Completed two years ago, it was officially launched last week.

In the chapter "Seeds of Salvation History," Edgar shows that praying the Rosary is praying with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He writes, "Many non-Catholics perceive devotion to Mary in her Rosary as overshadowing Jesus. Foundationally, many assume that it is a repetitive babbling with heads of pagan origin in the worship of a Catholic goddess. How sadly mistaken. Mary is the mother of Jesus and we honor her; adoration is reserved for God alone."

Fr. James Tissot, who did the foreword, says "the book is certainly concise, with scholarly knowledge packed into every page... and his theology would satisfy even an eagle-eyed pancosmos, conservative theologian like his fellow Benedict XVI."

"Catholic Soul" contains concise essays in Catholic Apologetics. It is a must-read for every catechist, soul priest.

Edgar wants in dedication his book "free to parishes all over the country but he needs a sponsor. Those who are interested to help can text him at 0917 5307852.

He says he wrote the book to provide an easy-to-read explanation of the faith, especially answers to fundamentalist questions and attacks.

The book is available at the National Book Store, PowerBooks, and Xavier Sanctuary at 2/F, Bell Ribbon Building, Missouri cor. Connecticut Sts., Greenhills.

Call 7234426, Shepherd's Staff bookstores in malls also have it.

Fiesta

The city of Las Piñas will mark the feast of Our Lady of Holden on Oct. 15, with a concelebrated Mass at 6 p.m. Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni will be main celebrant. Concelebrating with him are Archbishop Bishop Jesse Elevado, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes and Imus Bishop Rolando Tirona.

After the Mass, there will be a grand procession around the parish. Accompanying the Virgin are the images of "Tres Reyes" from St. Joseph Parish, Las Piñas; from Tunas and St. Joachim and St. Anne from the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne in Taguig City.

Masses will also be held 5:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 15.

Parish

Fr. Joel Bello-en, parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Sta. Mesa, Cupiz, is asking for help. The parish is in a mountainous area composed of eight barrios with 32 chapels. The center of the parish is at barrio Bacnotan, 17 km away from the town proper of Dumaoas and 65 km away from Puerto Princesa City.

Rough roads connect Bacnotan to other areas and it is accessible only by motorbike.

Father Joel notes, "Sometimes it's hard for us to go to the chapels to say Mass or administer the Last Sacraments. I have to rent a motorbike because the parish has no means of transportation. The parish is considered a mission parish."

Father Joel says the church is badly in need of repair but the cost of rehabilitation is too heavy for parishioners whose only sources of income are charcoal making, planting rice, gathering copras and cassava.

What's more are big celebrations, particularly the every quadrangle of the mission school to accommodate the faithful. The concrete is also in need of repair. It is made of light materials like cogon lumber and bamboo.

During the pastoral visit of the archbishop, Father Joel asked our family to host him and some priests.

Those who want to help can text Fr. Joel at 0919-5340037.

The feast day of Our Lady of Fatima is Oct. 13.

Scholar

Georgetown Founder Manila gave the Women's Opportunity Award scholarship to Cagma Dare Dared, 21, to enable her to study behavior processes at the University of the Philippines-Manila. The awarding was held at the Jade Vine Restaurant. Recipients' officers present included Ana-pani Arnello, president; Mirela Gonzales, past president; and Lyn Imperio, project chair.

The club is also giving a free computer course to the poor at the Mapa building on Epi. Rumanay Street, Mandaluyong. Each class is required to accept 12 students. Pat Cayanan, chair of the project, was able to garb at 50 students from different barangays in the area.

Award recipient

Soroptimist Founder Manila was second place in the Human Rights Our Women and Girls Award at the recent 29th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, which was attended by eight delegates from the Philippines. They were Cecilia Garcia, then president; Amalia, president for 2006-2008; district director Cora Cadelina; Josie Reyes, incoming president; Georgia Abaya; Nini Espinosa Ignacio, assistant treasurer; Dinana Baltazar and Rolando Fernandez, past national president.

Holy Land

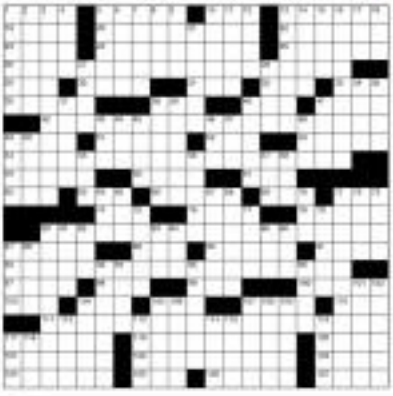
After a reassuring advisory from the Ministry of Tourism in Israel, travel agents are once again organizing pilgrimages to the Holy Land. A group is leaving May 10 to Holy Land and will proceed to Egypt, Jordan and other places. Call 5217638 or 7211688 (Adam's Travel).

Happy feast day of Our Lady of La Naval.

EDGARDO de Vera, author of "Catholic Soul"

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — HONOREE



THE BALAJADIA club

The Balajadias celebrated their third decade as husband and wife at a luxurious resort-hotel on Mactan

30 loving years, and counting

Frontpage D1

daughtered

The cyclonic heat caused the wedding before Ilonis to be extended. It was actually a blessing for Maureen and Amanda. The couple was able to use the more extravagant church setup—marquees, flowers and all—for their "not-so-extended" wedding. It was something they couldn't otherwise afford on a small budget of P2,000. Friends even made her own wedding gown to save money. In addition to that, due to a very tight budget, they were instructed by friends's camera for their pictures. They just paid him for the film. But the rest was history.

Love at first sight

Maureen and Amanda grew up in Concepcion, Tarlac. Maureen's parents were Pedro Balajadia and Isabel Peace Amanda's parents were Miguel Bituin and Lourdes David.

The young couple met during a dance. It was love at first sight. But they got separated during college: she had to go to Far Eastern University and she to the University of Santo Tomas, both in Manila.

Maureen was a wedding student at that time. Three years later, he unexpectedly met Amanda again. He was with the delivery team assigned to bring goods to the UST area. He resolved that no distance or obstacle would separate them ever again.

The couple started business early on in their careers. They knew the corporate life was not for them. They started a Quezon City-based pharmaceutical trading company within one year of their marriage. It is known now as MAJA Interchemical Industries Inc., one of the biggest pharmaceutical raw materials importers in the country.

Their entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. Years later they were able to build Good Laboratories, which is located in Bulacan. Then it is also one of the leading pharmaceutical raw manufacturing plants in the country. What started as a small business 30 years ago is now a 500-person pharmaceutical organization.

Three boys

The couple's union was blessed with three boys: Dennis, Lloyd and Dick.

Dennis, the eldest, is married to Emily Tungo, and they have three kids: Peter, Erika and Apolonio. Dennis is an entrepreneur whose quest is to build global brands.

Lloyd, the second son, recently got married to Phoebe Bengcahlim. He is a medical doctor and enjoys helping the needy and giving free consultations to families employed by the Balajadias. Most of his time is devoted to managing the family business.

Dick, the youngest, is a chef. He finished his culinary training at a school in San Francisco, California. He is currently handling Bellissimo, a dynamic place in Tomas Morato, QC, and SM Mall of Asia. He looks forward to opening [illegible] restaurants soon.

Their parents always told them: Life, including marriage, is all about give and take. And that's what keeps the Balajadia boys on track.

Smart Shot — Angel's Wink — YS&F — present the country's most awaited bridal event of the year...

Weddings... Get Set... Go!!!

THE COZIEST BRIDAL FAIR EVER! Year 6

OCTOBER 14, 15, 2006; ROCKWELL TENT; 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ENTRANCE IS FREE!!! To pre-register, log on to:

www.angelswink.biz or call 396-9877 / 361-8087

Wedding fair and fashion show in Tagaytay City

SPLENDIDO TAAL GOLF CLUBS in Tagaytay City recently presented "Weddings at Splendido."

The event showcased a complete wedding reception at the golf club-house featuring the three different wedding packages offered by Splendido: Teal, and Seaweed wedding reception menu offerings.

Highlight of the event was the bridal fashion show directed by Jackie Aquino, featuring creations by Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Joji Glores, Teddoi Nicanor, Randy Ortiz and Patrick Ernest Hao.

The first four couples who will have their wedding receptions at Splendido Taal were feted: Charito Duenas and Marilyn Perez, John Carlo Bellaflor and Pryss Ann Pelayo, Enrique Medina and Jessica Paredes, and Arlene Quimson-Del Rosario and Georgia Schalter.

Wedding planners and coordinators who were there were Margo Galvez of 3 Calendar Event; Gilda Lagman of The Social Connection; JP Montilla of Goggles Mark, Inc.; Lisa Logan of Kanlaon Coordination Service; Sharon Serrano-Ishizu of "Bernes and Mirth; Karen Zaldarriaga of Getting Married; Eugene Ong of Wedding Treasure; Ford Clemente of Angel's Wish Productions; Isidro Pigar of Vision and Ideas; Angel Cruz of Bridal Network; Andrew Roosevelt of Ice Cove Epiphenomena; Ana Ramos of Solemina Events; and Annette Gallos of All About Weddings.

Splendido Taal's partners for weddings were events stylist Karen and April Yu, florist Jeanette of Panadero Blanc Consultancy; Arlyn Enterprises for bridal cars, Taal Vista Jet and Taal Vista Hotel.

She wants to pursue her true love

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 28 years old and I still don't know what to do with my life. I am so confused, I don't know where I fit.

I just want to live decently and be able to mark on what I really love. How can I meet my own husband? My passion lies in arts, entertainment and reading. I love to draw fashion designs and do some oil and watercolor paintings.

I didn't take up fine arts in college because I couldn't afford it so I took up banking and finance instead. Unfortunately I wasn't able to finish my last semester.

As an undergraduate, I'm finding it hard to get a job. I want to venture into something close to my heart.

KEEP SURE

It's good to have dreams and passion still if you can make them come true!

But, at 28, you cannot just drink and dream. You have to get up, flex your muscles and start a living.

Hold on to that dream though, and let it be your guide. If you are artistic, invest some money and enroll in sewing and fashion design. There's nothing like knowing your craft first hand.

But your creative urge too sees sitting tangible like actually producing samples of dresses you've designed. How else will you make yourself known?

Make that a sideline but have a day job for your bread and butter at the same time. You can do it. You can afford to multi-task at your young age.

Lay your foundation on strong and solid ground. Learn the rules of your trade from the bottom up. That way, mistakes along the way won't hurt too much.

Remember there are no shortcuts to success. Ever heard the saying, "Experience is the best teacher"?

Think big but start small. Hey, you never know. There might be a Donna Karan hiding inside you!

Email the author or snailmail @inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Lines to Mr. Manolo or/and the program "Kalikasan Ngayon," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBF 1062 FM

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Manzanilla

Three men and their credit needs

ALBERT Martinez with daughter Alyanna

FOR AWARD-WINNING ACTOR ALBERT Martinez, sportscaster Anthony Suntay, and Alaska assistant basketball coach and television sports analyst Luigi Trillo, "responsibility" is a key word in making things work for their families and finances.

All three men make it a point to spend a lot of time with their brood when not working.

"I try to spend time with my kids playing sports like bowling and swimming as well as go to mall for movies or take them to one of town trips," says Suntay.

Most time salaries to being more of a homebody.

"I try to hang out at home with my wife and kids whenever I'm not working," he says. "I try to help them with their homework and, since they're all grown up, address their concerns as well. We also go out and have fun at the mall, dine out and watch movies."

Trillo, on the other hand, is someone who falls in love across the seas.

"On weekends, I enjoy bringing our daughter Rocio to the market to buy fresh seafood that we barbecue at home. We swim a lot, too, if the weather is okay, and we also go on a number of trips whenever we can."

All three also emphasize the importance of good spending habits and using credit cards responsibly.

For those dads who have unique financial balancing requirements, PNBank MasterCard offers various features. It has a low balances transfer rate of 1. 25 percent per month for 6, 9, 18 or 24 months, and 1 percent per month for only 12 months for a minimum monthly repayment of P250, or just 4 percent of monthly outstanding balance plus over-limit amount, whichever is higher.

Cardholders can also have access to cash for up to 100 percent of their credit limit, payable in the same monthly terms at the same low interest rate per month for their Family Ready Cash.

As friends come first, PNBank MasterCard specifically designed the Family Health Helper in which principal cardholders who reach the first P10,000 accumulated spending are entitled to a hospitalization cash benefit of P200 per day (maximum of 30 days) and personal insurance coverage of up to P200,000 for one year.

The entire family will enjoy the easy rewards system as well, as cardholders earn Family Rewards points for every P30. With earned points, cardholders may redeem for home appliances, free trips and several cash for vouchers.

Call 8276777 or 1800-1888-8227.

ANTI-HOPPY Suntay bonds with his tots by bonding as often as they can.

LUIGI Trillo with daughter Rocio

Fitness First's 14th club opens this October at SM North Edsa's The Block

Inside the Kremlin walls

A thousand rubles is a small price to pay for a glimpse of the incomparable riches preserved in Moscow's ancient citadel

Text and photos by Gilda Cadiz

A FEW GROUND RULES before you are permitted to enter the Kremlin: No bulky bags allowed. No picture-taking of police or military men. Stay within designated areas marked by white stripes on the pavement. Be prepared for any unannounced changes in tour coverage or schedule. Kremlin officials don't explain; you just follow.

The Kremlin (literally "fort" in Russian) is the heart of Russia. Historic records date the founding of this magnificent red-brick citadel to the 12th century, when Moscow's first section covered a wooden fortress at an elevated point by the Moskva and Neglinnaya Rivers. By the 15th century, work on a more durable walled city was in progress, and thereafter, the Kremlin was the undisputed seat of power of both the spiritual and temporal leaders of Russia.

Inside the fort, the patriarchs and metropolitans of the Orthodox Church, and

>>>>> 11

Inside the Kremlin walls

A BOY gazes in wonder at the incredible religious frescoes and icons that adorn the interiors. Now a museum, the church houses some of the finest examples of Russian art. The Fiery Eye of the Saviour icon from the 1340s and from the Kremlin's royal cathedral at this time, as this photo was taken on the sly.

From page E1

Within the irregular triangle that gives shape to the Kremlin's mighty walls are seven splendid cathedrals huddled in a tight space with six grand palaces, plus other imposing buildings and apartments

the czars, beauty and assorted nobility of Russia, governed their respective realms side by side. This arrangement, the bedrock of the country's divine-right autocratic government for centuries, can still be glimpsed from the towering stillness that defines the Kremlin skyline today.

Within the irregular triangle that gives shape to the Kremlin's impregnable walls are seven splendid cathedrals huddled in a cheek-by-jowl space with six grand palaces. Around them are other imposing buildings and apartments, plus 20 stately towers, the oldest of which date back to the 15th century.

The main place of worship is the golden-domed Assumption Cathedral, also known by its old name the Dormition Cathedral. Built in 1475-1479 on the base of the original church commissioned by Ivan the Terrible, the Assumption Cathedral was the site of the country's most important state ceremonies, such as the coronation of archdukes and the coronation of czars. Even after Peter the Great had transferred the capital to St. Petersburg, Russia's tsars traveled to Moscow to have their investitures in this church.

The cathedral is a new museum of incomparable religious art from the 12th to the 17th centuries. Every inch of pillar, ceiling, wall and altar is decorated with frescoes and ancient icons, including the famous The Fiery Eye of the Saviour icon from the 1340s. This supreme example of Russian art occupies pride of place in the church's gleaming iconostasis.

The Kremlin's guidebooks are picture-talking inside the Assumption Cathedral are busy. An entire similar group that had toured the place in March this year was allowed to take photos. Our group this month was not. Zoning us to take pictures very surreptitiously. The richness and majesty of the church's treasures simply could not be contained in little interest.

Burial place

Adjoining the Assumption Cathedral is the Cathedral of the Archangel Michael, erected in 1505-1508. As with other Kremlin structures, this fine domed edifice was the handiwork of a number of Italian architects invited to Russia by the czar, and decorated by the finest local artists and craftsmen of the day.

The Archangel Michael cathedral served as the lavish necropolis, or burial place, of grand princes and czars prior to Peter the Great. The lesser sarcophagi of interred ro-

THE 16TH-CENTURY Cathedral of the Archangel Michael, burial place of generations of Russian grand princes and czars, before Peter the Great

CATHEDRAL of the Assumption (1475-1479), Russia's main place of worship and site of royal coronations and ecclesiastical investitures

GMA CASIO

re every inch of the Assumption Cathedral's ...ious religious art and artifacts, including the famous ...thrones. Picture-taking is not allowed inside the

ELEVEN thrones of the Upper Sanctuar... Cathedral, (left-t)

THE SOLOVIEVA portal of the Assumption Cathedral, which was designed as a private entrance and was thus lavishly decorated by the finest artists and craftsmen of the day

ing to 81 in the nine-tiered belfry, which is topped by a golden cupola that, until the mid-20th century, the tallest point in all of Moscow. At its base stands the 16th-century Czar Bell, a decommissioned piece of metal reaching that weighs more than 200 tons and is the world's largest bell. It has never been rung.

Modern buildings

Not all of the buildings inside the Kremlin are ancient. The tallest, nearest from Ivan the Great Bell Tower, which is the first edifice one would see upon entering the fortress via the Borovitsa and Troitskaya (Trinity) towers, was built early in the 1500s. Forming this circumferent modern building is the 1776-era former Senate building, now the Presidential Palace. President Putin resides in the Palace, but lives outside the Kremlin, in one of Moscow's new developments.

The accumulated wealth and many treasures of Russia's czars and patriarchs were first aggregated in the Armory Palace, the building of which dates to 1844-1851. However, a State Armory already existed in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the royals began the task of collecting the valuable art objects that came under their reign.

Today, the Armory has the distinction of being the oldest museum in Russia, as well as the most treasure-laden. Within its vast hallways are displayed collection of royal regalia filled with gold, diamonds, and other precious stones. The unrivalled collection, spanning the 4th to the early 20th centuries of Russia's imperial history, includes such objects as Peter the Great's arsenal, residents and home, Catherine the Great's ornate coaches and carriage, Grazini Alexander's wedding finery, 18 Fabergé eggs (out of some 50 made that are now scattered worldwide), and thousands of pieces of decorative and applied art.

Separate lots

A tour of the Kremlin costs 450 rubles. Tour groups in separate from the entrance fees (to the Armory 1400 rubles) and the Diamond Fund (250 rubles), which holds the bulk of the royal jewels.

You may opt to forego the last two museums and just focus on the churches. Otherwise, the total cost would set you back by 1,300 rubles (P1,400), or 1 ruble=P51.

Take our word for it: P1,400—and a few restrictions along the way—is a small price to pay for the unforgettable immersion in Russian history and culture that a day inside the Kremlin walls will give you.

E-mail the author at gcalle@inquirer.com.ph, write www.gilbertcalle.com

FAÇADE of the 19th-century Grand Kremlin Palace, 18 81-56

...bility are arranged by ramps inside, though the treasures are kept in underground vaults.

The smaller Cathedral of the Annunciation, now undergoing upkeep and renovation, and the Church of the Deposition of the Robe, which has a more austere architectural style, are both closed to tourists at this time. These structures do check by [illegible] which other beauties of them lists such as the Cathedral of the Twelve Apostles, the Upper Cathedral of the Savior (which hosts 11 dazzling domes on its rooftop), representing the 33 [illegible] churches that were disappeared from the Kremlin since its beginnings), and the Church of St. Lazarus.

Landing a parking element to these centers of worship is the mighty bell-tower named after St. John [Ivan] Climacus. Rising to 81 in the nine-tiered belfry, which is topped by a golden cupola that, until the mid-20th century, the tallest point in all of Moscow. At its base stands the 16th-century Czar Bell, a decommissioned piece of metal reaching that weighs more than 200 tons and is the world's largest bell. It has never been rung.

GARGANTUAN Tsar Cannon, made in 1586 by gunsmith Andrey Chokhov

TravelBriefs

Hotel completes renovation

The Ritz-Carlton Tsim Tsui recently has completed a HK$125 million renovation of guest rooms and suites. Guest rooms are now painted pale yellow and taupe, while suites are in soft blue and gold. Furniture styles reflect local furniture construction influences. Artwork includes pieces by local artists depicting their approaches to famous landmarks, streets and scenes.

The hotel's two Presidential Suites feature hardwood floors, custom-area carpets and striking ceramic finishes and gold. The hotel also installed facilities for the latest in communication technology and enhanced amenities. Call (+852) 2366 6688, fax (+852) 2369 3333, toll-free Filipino reservations 800-1-65-0000, or visit www.ritzcarlton.com.

Musicians gets its own sound track

Standard City will host the annual Musicians Festival Oct. 30-31. For their first time in its 20 years, the festival will feature an original beat, an attempt by musician Gerry Grey to win a distinct sound that will identify the festival.

Since drawing a previous festivals usually featured popular beats, Grey said he wanted to give the event a distinctive beat that would be identified as the Musicians or Standard beat, just as the Mr. Lithers has its own rhythm. The show's opening festival festival at the Musicians Festival. Major Musicians Hall will be closed Oct. 29-31. The Wacky Musicians Parade, translated as "magic in the festival" will open Oct. 31.

The festival is spearheaded by the Silver Musicians Festival Organizers Inc., a group of artists and civic leaders. Heading the committee is Standard City Mayor Bing Leonardo. Musicians Festival director since 2004 is Eddy Fonacier Santiago.

Lakeside towns tour

Inactive tours is conducting on Oct. 31 a tour of Rizal, Laguna and Tagaytay-Batangas towns. The tour starts in Angono, with breakfast at the Nolan-Nolan Art Gallery. Included the itinerary are visits to Nuvo Manansala estate, Wenco Museum, and the studio of Carlos "Botong" Francisco. At graduation of the late National Artist Botong Francisco. The tour ends in the village of Daja Bagumbo in Tanay, Quezon. The public will conduct a demonstration. Call (+632) 3 and 8833 0.

Rewarding trip

The Singapore Tourism Board and Philippine (STB-P) is holding World Singapore 2 an initiative specially for Filipinos. Travelers can earn points if they travel to Singapore and take their Dec. 15. "Think" is a popular Singapore English word that expresses a great experience, a wonderful feeling or fun moment or satisfaction.

Based on its name, the promo is available for Filipinos who travel together to Singapore in groups of three or more. Groups must leave not later than Dec. 15 and must return together, staying for at least two nights in their one City. Call STB Philippines and (02)840- 8366 or Pinoy Winds at (632) 415-5678 and 8464 (faxes 631-8366 for more).

New Boracay resort

Discovery Shores Boracay will formally open in February. It will be the third property of the RSG Rainbow's Discovery, in addition to projects in Cebu and Metro Manila and Tagaytay. Discovery Shores is a sprawling beachfront property with 84 guest rooms and spa facility overlooking the beach. Guest rooms and facilities were designed by Bodi Lapuz + Daniel Rosete Architecture Planning and Interior Design. Call (02)8255 or visit www.discoveryshoresboracay.com.

...me in your spookiest Halloween costume and get in absolutely free*.

KEL TOWER (1 1)
Menara Kuala Lumpur (MKL) stands 421 m/1,381-feet with a nationwide Carnival Roadshow. "More than Meets the Eye." The 421-m/MKL opened in 1996. A subsidiary of the Telekom Malaysia group, it is the world's fourth tallest telecommunications tower and a member of the World Federation of Great Towers. Highlight of the MKL carnival's five-region outing is a Disney Musical "Hallowe'en for the benefit of young Kuala Lumpur (OKL) or special children. Situated in the heart of the Malaysia capital, Menara Kuala Lumpur is located on the 100-year-old Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve. It was inspired by Islamic art, with the lobby adorned by intricate Persian glass art called "Muqarnas." Log on to www.menarakl.com.my.

The magic starts with you.
Enchanted Kingdom
...Corporation, 102 Aguirre St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City. Tel. Nos. 830-[illegible]-11 to 18 and 893-[illegible]-73 to 78. www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

A musical celebration of Amadeus' 250th

PIANIST Rudolf Gulda and his mom, Dr. Rolanda Perez Gulda

CEBU
CEBU

Jaime Piccorelli

HANIST RUDOLF PEREZ GULDA HAD A standing-room-only solo recital, "Mostly Mozart," at the auditorium of the Ateneo de Cebu-Press Center.

The recital marked Mozart's 250th birth anniversary.

Diegito, as Rudolf is known among family and friends, performed beautifully. His deft fingers traveled across the ivory keyboard of the Arts Council piano from memory all throughout.

The first part of the program featured music by Mozart. It started with Sonata in D Flat Major followed by "Variaciones a Theme" by Salieri and Sonata in F Major.

Professor Russell Brandon, with characteristic British flair and wit, announced the pieces.

The program continued after a brief intermission with "Stairway of the Devil," a recitals by contemporary Hungarian composer Gyorgy Ligeti who passed away in June.

The audience sighed in comments (suitable when Diegito played them) only in F Major by Chopin, and not in rapt attention during the powerful finale—Beethoven's Sonata in F Minor. Sustained applause and a standing ovation moved Diegito to give an encore: Chopin's "Etude."

In the audience, seated in the middle section of the center hall (where the sound is at its best), was Diegito's mom, Dr. Rolanda "Dolor" Pelaez Gulda. She is president of the Liceo de Cagayan University in Cagayan de Oro City. The recital was to raise funds for the school's music scholars.

"Also for the house for the aged at the Asilo de la Molalla Milagrosa in Cebu," she said. The orphanage and old people's facility is run by the Daughters of Charity who, in Cebu, also run the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion.

After the recital, there was an intimate dinner at the Cebu Ayala where Diegito was honored with more congratulations. Helping Ocha were younger son Malo Gonzella.

Among the cousins were Dr. Oscar Tan and his lovely wife, the former Cynthia Ligaldo, and their daughter Camilla.

Diegito gave another solo piano recital Wednesday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila. He performed some of the pieces he did in Cebu and a few others he excellently chose.

Pull boss

Billy and Marlene Mendiola added two more restaurants to their Tinder Box, a most popular deli shop, wine cellar and watering hole on Banilad Road. Anina is an elegant dining restaurant named after their pretty daughter. The other is an upstairs champagne lounge divinely done by Kenneth Cobonpue. You get the feeling of being bubbled up in a subpenthe.

To celebrate the opening, Billy and Marlene, together with Anina and Elizabeth Lim, her classmate in a school in Switzerland, received close friends and media people at a very elegant dinner.

Everyone admired the glass-topped tables, chandeliers dripping with jet-black beads, and a stupendous rendition of Salieri's famous work, "The Judgment of Paris."

Billy and Marlene were beside themselves with joy, not just because of the opening, but also because Anina was able to take time off and be with them in Cebu. Dinner was, appropriately served. Every item was on the daily a la carte menu. The best wines from their wine cellar were poured last evening.

I had the luck to be seated with three of Cebu's most dynamic women.

Symeon Mendiola does wonders in the field of decorative arts, aside from being a most wonderful person.

Mary Anne Abella Arnaiz is her mother's (Auntie Dorothy Abella) daughter in the field of real estate. She told us about Muhgana Place, a new development in Maria Luisa Estate Park, the Forbes Park of Cebu, where she and husband Derek serve sun, attracting beautifully designed mansion-type homes. The houses are a steal, with prices starting at P10-million.

And there was Peter Garcia, president of the Arts Council. The big thing for Cebu this year is the full-length ballet "Swan Fun," produced by Nicholai Ouroulis and Greg Aranes, who have taken the reins of the Ballet Center from Fe Sala-Villarica.

Performance dates are Nov. 17 and 18 at Orange in Ayala Center Cebu. Overall chair is Weina Chin Tramiroa. The power committee includes Elena Wong, Marylou Sarl, Alice Phua and Domingo Ringpis Jr. Tess Aquino-oreto is Tempus Magis and Vanchi claimant.

Many have signed up as major sponsors. May their tribe increase.

More events are on the Arts Council calendar, culminating with National Arts Month in February. Also scheduled is a performance in March by the 40-member cast of St. John's Found in Guam. It's a musical revue titled "Smokey Joe's Cafe," directed by Miss Susanna, who may be Guam-based but has strong Cebuano roots.

BILLY Mendiola with daughter Anina and wife Marlene (see Pulse)

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Shop to the Power of 10!

x10

P1 = 10 Points

on your Wisecard and Elite Card

October 13 - 15, 2006

9:00 AM to 12:00 MN

ONLY IN SHOPWISE

ALABANG & ARANETA

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Emmie G. Miranda

BRAD PITT stars in "Babel," four interrelated stories.

Papa Pitt high on flying, Shiloh and Angelina, Part 2

LOS ANGELES—WE continue our column (just one appeared last Friday) on Brad Pitt who granted his first interview only to since the media frenzy over his relationship with Angelina Jolie began.

As he settled into a chair in a meeting room at the Universal offices, Brad said, "It's been a long time. It's nice to see you all. I've got three kids (more) to be joked, "Your guys is scarring."

Then he proceeded to give a remarkably candid interview, with not a single "no comment" reply. As we wrote in the previous column, the only time he hesitated was when he was asked the question, "What are you good at?" "I really don't know how to answer that," he answered. He was being modest, of course.

He's getting very good at acting, as he shows in his latest outing, Alejandro González Iñárritu's "Babel," a magnificently stylized film that manages to make all four interlinked stories in Morocco, Tunisia, Japan and Mexico equally riveting.

The famous ex of Jennifer Aniston is also getting every publicist in co-producing films that are being feature about as contenders in the coming awards season: "The Departed," which has critics raving and teasing each other for the most number of superlatives they can heap on Martin Scorsese's finest film in many years; and "Running With Scissors," the adaptation of Augusten Burroughs' bestselling memoir with Annette Bening reportedly excellent as a tuneful for years and awaited.

At the press con, there was a touching earnestness and sincerity to Brad's face as he answered a question about why he and "Angie" decided to have their baby, Shiloh Nouvel, born in Africa.

With your interest in architecture, do you explain to your kids how to build strong structures when you play Lego with them?

I try to steer them in that direction. I hope we get a little engineer in there somewhere. I heard this great story of a baby whose son drew this crazy structure. The

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca U. Añonuevo

Taal Vista Hotel: Renovated. Resplendent. Reinvented.

Reconnect

Rediscover each other in the renovated Taal Vista Hotel

Our "Barkada Rush" package makes vacationing experience affordable.

Rate per person: P 2,000 (on weekdays / P 2,200 on weekends)

Includes overnight stay in a room, breakfast in lunch, use of lanai, gym and choice of billiards or darts, 20% off on spa services

Terms & conditions apply

Call (043) 413-7777 (Metro Manila) or (0943) 5-7777

www.taalvistahotel.com / www.magallanes.com

TAAL VISTA HOTEL

Women dress up to get the guy. So my wife, having more business savvy, lets me screen the designs. It's a guy thing to go for low necklines and butt-enhancing cuts. That's why Maldita is our big.

Maldita's demanding. We can't be concerned with other operations. Headaches as we accessorized our frontline and back-end teams with Sun phones to address even the smallest customer concern – like which branch still has a size XS of our sexy mikmak tops.

This way, we save money because we save minutes and hours. Now that we've switched to Sun, nobody misses a beat.

That leaves us more focused to make our Maldita even better.

Every year, Sun invests more than P1 billion to increase coverage and capacity, making faster to give more calls and texts anytime, anywhere.

24/7 TALK 24/7 TEXT

SUN CELLULAR
Better network. better value.

Dance 10, storytelling 5

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"STEP UP" IS AN INTERESTING FILM because it tries to combine the world of ritualized dance with hip-hop moves.

To do this, it tells the story of a young hooligan (Channing Tatum) who is forced to perform community service chores as a school for the arts, where the movie star dance student (Jenna Dewan).

It turns out that Dewan's character is a modern classical dancer, while Tatum is a jock or hip-hop. Can these two utterly disparate dance forms be fused to triumphant, artistic effect?

Can the two young protagonists negotiate the above-their-class differences and love one another? This deceptively upbeat movie says yes on both counts.

Unfortunately, both happy conclusions are arrived at much too easily and predictably to be sufficiently credible and involving. So, viewers can more productively concentrate on the film's dance scenes for fanciful and exhilarating viewing experience.

In this regard, the production team can point for boasting two exceptional young dancers Tatum and Dewan as its male and female leads.

Dewan's fine dancing is clearly the product of years of rigorous training, while Tatum's dervish hip-hop moves affirm his natural affinity for the gutsy grooves of his character's social class and generation.

It would have been much better, however, if the film's storytelling could have been as involving, vivid and creative as its dance aspect.

Video competition

From the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television, the producers of Anak TV (the soul of family-friendly television), comes to latest initiative to promote child sensitive programming. Entitled Facing Broadcasters, a competition for videos by children, for children, and about children.

Videos (fiction, documentary and else) by Filipinos under 18 years old may be entered until June 17. They may use any video equipment, including mobile media cellphones.

The contest encourages youths to communicate at their own level, and to deal with issues that directly affect them, using their episodes in mass media communication.

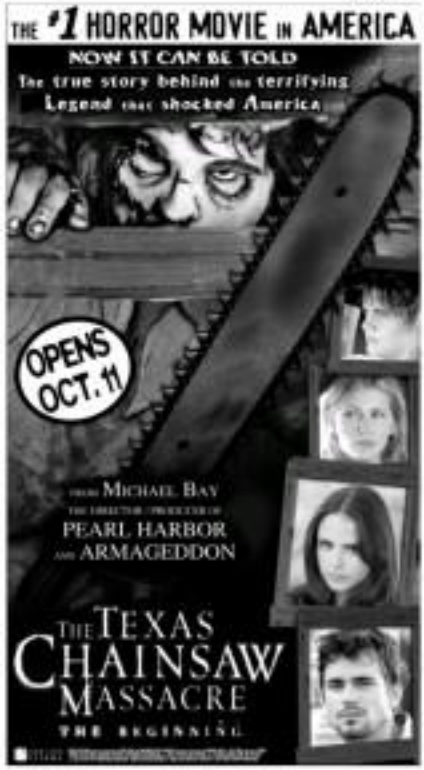
Entrants may submit their original (have to 20 minutes video materials, with themes either serious (the environment, poverty) or playful (pets, hobbies, friends). Entries can be submitted by individuals or groups.

Videos will be screened by a panel of child and adult judges. Entries that are shortlisted will enjoy broadcast exposure on local, cable and national television. Valuable prizes are at stake, and selected entries will represent the Philippines at international video festivals.

Detailed guidelines and entry forms may be downloaded from the ABS-CBN web site (www.abs-cbn.com). Interested schools and parents may email anak_tv_mail@yahoo.com.

Among finalizations will highlight the foundation's activities for 2006, culminating in the Anak TV awards, held in December in celebration of the International Children's Day of Broadcasting and Storytelling Worldwide. Media Week, as declared by Malacañang.

The United nations declared Children's Day of Broadcasting to be observed annually on the first Monday of December to highlight the importance of broadcasting to children and to encourage broadcasters to produce programs for children.



A SCENE from "Step Up"

raising seeks to draw attention to the need of children for responsibly-made child-specific and quality materials on TV that directly address them.

It also underscores the reality that most TV programs are designed for adults, even if there is a predominance of viewers under 18.

The idea is also to veer away from the commercial nature of television, excessive pandering to show biz and entertainment, and the unhealthy exposure of lifestyles children to varying values or inappropriate examples like too many singing, acting and dancing newborns, having children turn entertainment careers).

'Kick Fighters'

At 8 p.m. on Oct. 10, National Geographic Channel airs the reruns telecast of "Kick Fighters," on the 83 World Muay Thai Championship.

Three men vie for the title of global master of 83, a style that fuses Western boxing and Eastern martial arts.

The three top contenders are Wayne Parr, Hussein and Ibrahim.

Three-in-one concert

Three concerts for the price of one are in store for music lovers at 8 p.m. on Oct. 15 at Music Museum.

"Rhythm and Blues" will feature Tina Babb, Aina Aiguaviva, Genevieve Gruz and Jay-R, with direction by Jim Abilgaard. Call 725-4304. Producers are Gina de la Rama and Cynthia Bautista-Ramos.

Still Freestyle

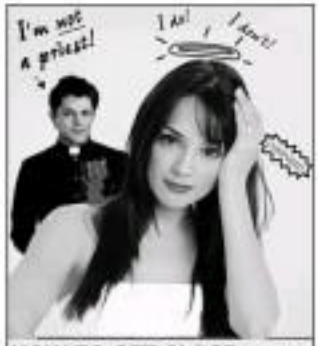
Freestyle has come out with a new single, "Still," a revival of one of the biggest mellow hits of the 1970s. "Still" was originally recorded by The Commodores. It's perfect for a band like Freestyle, which built quite a following with its strong renditions of ballads like "Do Shoo," "This Time" and "Before I Let You Go."

Feedback

From Baby S.: "Here's my response to your reader's criticism of Boob-tube Boohoo: 1. Yes, it is possible that you had misheard due to mispronunciation. 2. Yes, you have a high standard, as your reactions to fanboy silly and nonsensical dialogue on TV to the to [illegible]. 3. It's your column, so write what you wish to write [and] publish it but 83, it's a free country.

"4. Yes, Boob-tube Boohoo is to us very malicious [spiteful], sarcastic, wicked]. 5. Yes, Boob-tube Boohoo ridicules, so how about removing your personal comments? Printing the boohoos as they are would remove the sarcasm.

"Do with the Boob-tube Boohoo!"



HOW TO GET CLOSE TO THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS AND WIN HER HEART:

☐ (A) Disguise yourself as a priest so you can hear her intimate confessions and know her more.

☐ (B) Tell her you're gay and hope she will take you in as her room mate.

☐ (C) Buy her a car, even though you can't afford one.

☐ (D) Give her fake diamonds.

☐ (E) Tell her you are a prince from a far away land.

* IF YOU CHOSE (A), THEN YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD SEE THIS MOVIE!

my first wedding

The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!

OPENS OCT. 11

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

LEGEND CINEPLEX

Ayala Cinemas

Greenhills Cinemas

Shangri-la Cinemas

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Novaliches

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Metro East

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Galleria

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Ermita

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Sta. Rosa

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Dasmarinas

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Imus

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Bacolod

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Iloilo

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Pioneer

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Ermita

Cinema 2000 Centrio Cagayan de Oro

Cinema 2000 Davao

Cinema 2000 Cebu

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Galleria

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Iloilo

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Bacolod

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Dasmarinas

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Imus

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Sta. Rosa

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Metro East

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Novaliches

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Pioneer

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Manila

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Ermita

Boob-tube brawl

TAKE FIVE

A self-confessed newbie to the world of mixed martial arts offers gritty fighting to late-night viewers

By Raquel Sun Diego Jr.

CONCEPT, COMMERCIAL and music-video director CK Kangwalan is making up a new reality program—"Real Pinoy Fighter"—which airs on ABS-CBN Mondays, starting Oct. 9, after the late-night newscast "Bandila."

This 36-year old director submitted to Inquirer Entertainment that he had undergone a crash course on mixed martial arts, in preparation for his new job.

"I watched past episodes of 'The Contender' and 'Ultimate Fighting Championships,' which have the same concept as our show," he said. "I have no background in this sport. I mean a lot in our trainings. It's very challenging."

Mixed martial arts, he explained, is "a combative sport that combines different disciplines: Brazilian jiu-jitsu, wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, muay Thai, freestyle fighting and others that involve both striking and grappling."

To balance things, he chose as hosts, the brother-and-sister team of Alvin and Aimee Aguilar—both reunlumed ex-guests in the field.

Alvin is acknowledged as the founder of Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) in the Philippines, while Aimee, who is also the local host of "The Contender" in ASIA, trains in the Brazilian martial art of capoeira.

He is now GK par excellence of training for "Fighter" in the meantime.

His last big TV property seen as alternate director of "Daisy Siyete" on GMA 7 and director of "Global Battle of the Bands" on IBC13.

The toughest test came when he directed "The Other Side," Isiah Tanauan's Cine-win ning debut concert at the Araneta Coliseum, which was plagued with a power outage.

"There was no air-conditioning. The concert was almost over, when power was restored," he recounted.

That caught him grave under pressure—a virtue he would undoubtedly need as director of a weekly hush-note brawl.

What's the show's concept?

There are 14 fighters, chosen from 30 who auditioned. Each month, **one contender will be eliminated.** The ultimate champion at the end of the 13-week season will compete in the next URCC.

Were some of your contenders experienced while fighting the show?

At first, I wasn't used to the kind of training they have to undergo. I couldn't imagine how anyone could endure that much hardship. It involved very physical exercises. Rubber and kinds of drills, like carrying another person on your back, on top of the usual wrestling and boxing training.

How often do they train?

Per episode, we feature one training session. But they train as often as they can, individually.

How do you make sure that the show isn't too violent?

Actually, there are rules in mixed martial arts. There are lots of do's and don'ts. There are referees and judges in every fight. It's similar to boxing in that way. I admit that it can be a little violent compared to other fights, but it's still a safe sport.

What are those rules?

No eye gouging, no hitting below the belt. There are lots of rules and we supervise the viewers of these regulations at the start of each bout so they wouldn't think that "anything goes" to these fights.

What did you discover in yourself while doing this show?

I learned about the art of fighting. From my interviews with the fighters, my casual talks with them, I learned a lot about their lives. Fighting is not just about violence. There are reasons why each one of these fighters joined this competition. These realizations I can apply to life in general. We all have our reasons ... why we fight for certain things in life.

Little Mr. & Ms. Riverbanks

The grand finale for the fourth Little Mr. & Ms. RiverBanks Center goes on stage at the mount's fundraising entertainment venue on Oct. 14 at 4 p.m.

In photo are grand finalists (back row, from left) Kurt Magallanes, Mart Barzay, Francis Ren Chavez, Marvin Dugnas, Jason Toledo, (front row) Mildred Cruz and Lee Ann Cubito.

Winners will receive P10,000 in cash prizes and gift packages from Riverbanks Mall, Hanny Productions, Vitex Academy of the Philippines, Jo+Kids, Save More Supermarket, Hyperior, Fibear Shuttle, Air Mattering, Pro-O-of Fun, Chancellor Unlimited, Candy Idea and FBC Riverbanks.

KID FIT

Nick invades campuses

Nickelodeon invades schools in Metro Manila and Baguio from October to December.

"Nick Takes Over Your School!" is a nationwide program dedicated to promoting fun, sportsmanship, team spirit and fitness among grade school students.

Nickelodeon will be in schools such as Ateneo de Manila University, Claret School of Quezon City, Our Lady of Grace Montessori School and Colleges, UNO High School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Montessori and St. Louis University in Baguio City.

Students can look forward to hilarious and interesting games such as Dip it Drop where kids have to find all the right puzzle pieces by dunking in a slime-filled pool.

Fans will have the opportunity to meet and greet their favorite "Nickelodeon Stars" at the

Papa Pitt high on flying, Shiloh...

From page F1

one and it was a new house in the end inside a tree house that looks exactly like the drawing. I thought that was a really nice story. I hope to be able to do that, too, someday.

Angelina said that motherhood has not stopped her from taking causes that are very selfless—does that ring true to what you've told...

Yes, unconventional, I would say. But your personal experience and growth don't have to stop at being a parent. It can be enhanced in many way, and your experience becomes fuller.

How has your celebrity status affected your humanitarian causes?

Of course, it helps because there's an automatic spotlight on us. In fact, it's hard to get out of that spotlight. It occurred to me a couple of years ago and I said it then: Since I couldn't get out of the spotlight and there were so many people who are in need, maybe if I can be a conduit and deflect from myself.

It's it's been a good thing. It's helped so many causes. We have access to covering a lot of great minds who can give us a way to limited education on a subject. It's important that if you take on something, you stick with it because childhood is fleeting. I'm being flighty. Shiloh and I have a thousand of her toys still carrying around time. So it better be something that you believe in enough to stick with it.

Certainly, there have been (unfortunate) stories in the past because of this perceived idea, which is truly not the case. But a couple of the other celebrity couples—the whole thing, they can do more harm to the cause. You can actually cause people to turn away and do exactly the opposite of what you set out to do.

What irritates you the most in this world, outside your personal sphere?

That list is long (laughter). Our country was founded on freedom. Anything that becomes a hindrance to that freedom I find shocking and shortsighted. The thing that irritates me the most is not being able to just live my life and let others live their lives as they wish instead of being threatened in some ways. I'd give you one to keep it short. Second is our shortsighted foreign policy. This Sky speaks about. Said in the sense of getting back to their roots that's all the same. I am not bragging cross-not bootleg cops white flag but I am for true understanding and the willingness to understand others' positions.

Can you talk about the media circus at the height of Vin and Jen—Inside?

If there was a real conversation about what was going on, instead of this push to sensationalize and make money off that, I would have made myself available. But at that point, it was a no-win situation. I knew there would be no way either Jennifer or myself down and I could speak more freely and it wouldn't be abused.

That (the media circus) was not about real journalism. To me, you unless is an unbiased willing of the facts. It's not about speculation and opinion which, I can't stand the word "news." It says something about our culture.

Now that Vin has two years here for you?

Since I became a father and turned 40, the directions that fit personally like to take has become clearer. Before, in my younger days, I was more of a drifter. I'd try many things on. I'd try anything. Now there's real pride in understanding myself, what's important to me, my core values and acting on those values.

This film probably parallels your passion for cross-culturalism, especially with the international breadth of the cast.

What's unique/unary to the level of acting. We have people here who will headline a movie and we have adults and kids here who have never acted before in their lives, yet you cannot distinguish the difference. It's extraordinary on Mehdi's part to cast those people without any acting experience and to get that depth. The Moroccan kid who has the role played their father were extraordinary. In the scene where Gate's (Blanchett) getting sent up, that was actually the local veterinarian (laughter) doing it. I'm brought this realism, but the performances are all equal and there's no story that stands out above any other.

Can you comment on how adoption from different cultures can help heal the world?

A few years ago, I said this and got into trouble. I can wish everyone would come over to Africa and adopt an African child. Or we'd have so many cubes that we wouldn't keep track and then it really wouldn't matter (laughter). But that's an obnoxious way of saying it. On the adoption front, we're talking about the difference between a kid having a father and a child that's not psychologically with our daughter (Zahara) and probably the same can with Maddox as well. The superorder any other argument. I would like to see more of a spread of the idea of separation which I rail against.

Africa has a special significance for you now. What are your impressions when you first landed in that continent?

It's so vast and so different. There are places that are extraordinary. Incredible beauty. The best thing I was struck by was the lack of opportunity for the people. Reminder (for his screenplay) Sam Rockwell's joke in the 1940s, which I thought was funny at the time but was really destructive: It said, "You lost to a 1—y doesn't. Move, move. We really do not understand how fortunate we

BRAD Pitt with the cobrunner in Hollywood

are with where we were born on the longitude, latitude scale and what a difference that can mean to be raised on the right side. It can mean the difference in having the opportunity to become an actor, doctor or a writer or struggling every day for food to feed yourself and your children. Dad behind when they get sick. What would you do?

But there's a great verve and understanding because there deal with death and survival. We don't have that. It's a wisdom we don't understand. As I think about it, that leads me to my character and Cate's story in this film. They're a couple who are used to having a pharmacy down the road. We can get anything we want—doctors and all. So our character's don't think when they just say, 'Cloud, we'll go to Morocco,' it's the remarkable of going to another country. They don't think about what would happen if they were to get into some kind of accident and how they would deal with it. There's not nerve trained in the lack of services and opportunities. (But in the US), we grow up with the American dream—that we can be anything we want. That's the most battling (topic) Africa has on me. It goes back to the issue of equality. It makes me (and others) I watch with more reverence our (has playing field) in some way.

Some reports claimed that you got married (yesterday). And can you talk about the marriage you are sending by having an American baby in Africa?

No, not true (on the first one). Not (we are) just as dedicated. Two people with our track record, you know (laughter). Namibia served a twofold purpose. (To tell you a little story, I was told this after the fact. At a meeting of the African Union, the Minister of Tourism from Namibia was asking South Africa, 'How do we help ourselves with tourism? No one knows we exist. People don't come here.' That area almost two months before we were there (laughing) but we may have raised a good thing. There was a search for where we can bring this child into the world and have some semblance of privacy for ourselves and our kids, especially her (Shiloh), and especially this idea that she could be part of southern Africa. She was given a Namibian passport. That will bring us back there and at the same time, we can invest in that place that Angie had been to before and fallen in love with. We can help out a little bit with their programs. There are great programs going on there. They're doing some good things on the equality and opportunity front. It was more of an instinct than an actual defining reason why it (Namibia) was right on those levels. Namibia just felt right for us and that's was our goal from the beginning. We know it would be a return here. We had some remarkable ideas too—going deep in the Congo. But it was more instinctual on our part.

Has fatherhood exceeded your expectations?

Yes. They (the children) define what they want to be. You can't really push them in any direction. The fun part of being a parent is trying different things on the kids and seeing what they're drawn to and what they're not. It's almost like putting an array of musical instruments out in front of them and finding out which one they'll go for. Unfortunately, ours seem for drums (laughter).

Have your kids exceeded your expectations?

PITT in a scene from "Babel"

The fun part of being a parent is trying different things on the kids and seeing what they're drawn to

Oh yeah, absolutely. As I said before, I am not joking around. I'm looking for a soccer team (laughter). I want to compete in the World Cup.

Since the Mexican portion of this film's story deals with the immigration issue, can you comment on how cruel the experience can be for people who are not allowed in (through this country legally)?

I'm really not knowledgeable enough to speak on it. But I like what Thomas L. Friedman (three times Pulitzer prize winner, The New York Times' foreign affairs columnist and pro-immigration advocate) said recently, trying to find a center of proper control but logic (my own (The exact quote is, "Personally, I favor a very high fence, with a very big gate."). My worry is if we become too isolationist, we're going to choke ourselves.

E-mail the columnist at rmapalo_1568@yahoo.com

JOINT PUBLIC AUCTION

Philippine National Bank - Allied Banking Corporation

(October 25, 2006 | THURSDAY | 2:00 PM | SARAGINA MANOR HOTEL, 121 General Luna St., Iloilo City)

PNB

GUARANTEED FINANCING/FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS

10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS

Please Call: PNB-ARS SALES III - Auction Team

LUZON Call #

VISAYAS

MINDANAO

PNB ACCEPTS REAL ESTATE BROKERS

movietime
SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie
EXCLUSIVE

Watch it Exclusively at SM Cinema
NO MERCY
Witness the biggest WWE action on the big screen at these SM Cinema branches:
LIVE VIA SATELLITE
Tickets at Premiere (P500) – On hand (P350)

COMING SOON
•Oct 13 ANAPOLIS
•Oct 20 ERCB II
•Nov 1 WANCHOLE
•Nov 10 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

movietime
PROMO

SM Cinema gives you a chance to win exclusive THE GUARDIAN premiere items from Buena Vista International
THE GUARDIAN AT SM CINEMAS OCTOBER 19

SHOWTIME
EVENT CALENDAR

NCCA, FDCP reject independent filmmaker's 'last-minute request'

By Macinell R. Cruz

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE and the Arts (NCCA) and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), government agencies that provide subsidies to filmmakers, said they could not grant Mamold aid to independent filmmaker Mes de Guzman because his was a "last-minute request."

De Guzman earlier sought monetary assistance from the two government agencies for his trip to Spain to attend the 52nd San Sebastian International Film Festival where he received a special mention for the digital film "Ang Unan Patungong Kalimugmog" (The Road to Kalimugmog).

The NCCA and the FDCP did not grant his request.

A SCENE from "Ang Unan Patungong Kalimugmog"

"I don't remember Mes requesting for financial aid from the NCCA in August for the San Sebastian film fest," said NCCA chairman committee chair Cecilenda "Bea" del Mundo. "But even if he did, I don't think it would be approved. It normally takes three to six months for requests to be processed. He also didn't allow reimbursement."

In an earlier interview with Inquirer Entertainment, De Guzman pointed out that he was only requesting the agencies to reimburse the money he would borrow elsewhere as he needed assistance that he would pay the loan.

The divorcee did not identify the agencies concerned.

Del Mundo said that before a request is granted, the filmmaker should first submit an application form to the cinema committee, which would evaluate the project or endorse the request to an NCCA sub-committee.

The sub-committee is comprised of different department heads from Literature, Theater and Visual Arts.

Final approval

"If the application is approved on this level, it will then be forwarded to the NCCA board, which would give the final approval," Del Mundo said in an interview on Thursday. "But this was a last-minute request."

Del Mundo said the NCCA has "supported" De Guzman in the past. "The director has received a grant of P300,000 for his First short film, 'Batang Yuppy,' another P300,000 for his video 'Silinsin,' and recently, P250,000 for his new film 'Sidlakbuyan Boy.'"

Christine Reyes, FDCP vice-chair and Executive Evaluation Board chair, confirmed that De Guzman sent a letter to the FDCP requesting for a subsidy "but there wasn't enough time to get board approval."

She added that De Guzman then sought for reimbursement "after the fest with him the day before he was supposed to leave for San Sebastian."

"But I could not just say yes to him. The FDCP board has to approve all financial subsidies," Reyes said on Wednesday. "Since our funds are from tax rebates from the government, the FDCP must be very careful and thorough..."

She said: "Since the council has very limited funds, it was agreed that a film could get a subsidy if it had already won in festivals abroad."

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE DEPARTED
2 FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PUSH
PREMIERE THEATRE
Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS

The end is near for 'Six Feet Under'

By Oliver M. Palomboit
Contributor

REVIEW

DEATH AND MARRIAGE, IN THE past four seasons of "Six Feet Under," have shaped the Fisher family more intense where mythical ups and downs have become reflective of many families' complicated, struggle-filled lives. The program, created by acclaimed "American Beauty" scribe Alan Ball, is uniquely a mature and profound series that entertained—and emotionally tortured—a number of imperfect, fierce archetypes for years. Its final season won't finally go over the brim—replicates the same skills, but this time, growth appears to be at a critical point, as there are only a couple of episodes left before the Fishers' aching, tangled journeys come to an end.

In the head season's first two episodes, "A Coat of White Primer" and "Dancing for Mr," strained relationships worsen. Former ex-stoner Claire (Lauren Ambrose) and her mother Ruth (Frances Conroy) become more distant than ever. Ruth's new husband George (James Cromwell) is revealed to be suffering from a recurring mental illness, which begins to affect their marriage and the Fisher household. The impending marriage, meanwhile, of Nate (Peter Krause) and Brenda (Rachel Griffiths) is marred by an unexpected circumstances incident.

Plaguing these two episodes will remind you that, in with previous seasons, things can get really depressing when these characters become problematic. Seeing them go through hell, understandably does keep things from becoming boring. But starting off in a more blissful state that time are you know David (Michael C. Hall) and Keith (Matthew St. Patrick), who are helping to raise their own child. The truth is a funny dream sequence at one point, involving potential surrogate mothers and their reasons for helping the couple produce a baby, but, they still "good" to imaginary and dead people in their sessions Mediator in the previous season. Its subplot looks promising; Nikolas has surely been framed on, except in a few select episodes.

Another character who seems to be gearing up for more serious chaos is ex-stoner Billy (Jeremy Sisto), whose docile relationship with Claire has been dull so far.

The old, disturbed Billy is bound to resurface, and is expected to make things up before the series draws to a close.

Again, these characters have gone through some of the most painful transformations that TV drama characters could ever experience. Siblings Nate, David and Claire last their father when the series began, and have lived throughout and failures in their various relationships. Both, their career has considerable strides, is decidedly tarnished conventionally but the Fisher and their extended family, despite being exposed to death through their business, no appreciation of life's beauties. We've seen them at their worst, and we share their joy when they're celebrating their lives.

The series has had its share of incongruous), repetitive moments—there haven't been abundantly bad episodes, only predictable, lackluster ones—but those are often excellent by the season finales.

Now that it's ending, the clock is ticking for the Fishers, and whether it ends in laughter or tears, "Six Feet Under" will rightfully be remembered as a show with some of the most human, most developed people ever to grace our televisions.

(The final season of "Six Feet Under" premieres this 10, 10 p.m., on HBO.)

ARTICLE » PG. 12

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
987-6863
GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE CINEMAS

G1
1 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE DEPARTED
3 PULSE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
G4
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
5 STEP UP
6 THE DEPARTED
7 PULSE
GB1
1 STEP UP
2 THE DEPARTED
GB3
1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 THE DEPARTED
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
ATC
1 THE DEPARTED
2 PULSE
3 STEP UP
4 TUTOOTS
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
ACC
1 THE DEPARTED
2 MISHAP
3 THE BREED
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
M2
1 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE DEPARTED
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 PULSE
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA
TOWN
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!

Christian Bautista
Live
Be serenaded by Asia's Pop Idol
Mutual Market
October 8, Sunday
Activity Center, 4pm
Metropoint Mall
October 14, Saturday
Activity Center, 4pm
Robinsons Town Center
November 5, Sunday
Town Plaza, 4pm
Festival Mall
November 26, Sunday
Entertainment Arena
Glorietta
December 3, Sunday
Activity Center

STAND YOUR GROUND
ON OCTOBER 11 EXCLUSIVELY AT
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS

PELICULA PELIGRA
Clarke en serie
Pendiente a Cinema 1
9:00PM
4:30PM
7:00PM
9:30PM

Short films on Guimaras oil spill air tonight

ONLY 13 OF THE 36 SHORT FILMS ON THE environmental disaster in Guimaras Island will be shown tonight on ABC-TV's current affairs program "Shorts" at 10:30 p.m.

Filmmaker Khavn dela Cruz's work recently received an "X" rating from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), while Paolo Villaluna and Jimmon dela Cruz failed to submit copies of their films on the deadline set by the network, according to the program's executive producer Bing Ilmansen.

The episode, titled "Guimaras: Short Films from the Oil Spill," has originally been scheduled to air last week but was postponed "to give the filmmakers more time to finish their work and to stretch the episode to an hour," said Ilmansen.

Airing tonight are four extreme versions of the films.

In September, independent filmmakers Milo Pita, Jimmon dela Cruz, Jack Coquinla, Paolo Villaluna, Wilfred Galila, Eddie Tablizo, Khavn De Cruz, JP Escpiz, Jerjerical Sanchez, Raya Martin, Rodtic, Ann Ong Rivera dela Cruz, Victor Villanueva, Dyan Riquiroro and Chase Sisco flew to Guimaras Island to shoot a 30-minute short film each on the oil spill in the Western Visayas.

The project, a co-production of ABC-5 and the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFC), aims to create awareness among the general public on the effects of the oil spill. The full 30-minute versions of the short films will be shown from Oct. 13 to 23 at the Robinsons Galleria in Quezon City.

KAREN dela Cruz directs her "X"-rated film, Rizon, all-dogs-an rocks in Guimaras shores.

WEDDING ADVISORY: A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON.

The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!

To Win Her Heart, He Must Come Up with the Perfect Disguise.

RACHAEL LEIGH COOK (star of "Nancy Drew")

KENNY DOUGHTY (star of "The Great Raid")

OPENS OCT. 11

my first wedding

LAUGH TILL YOU DROP!

FINALLY... COMING TO MANILA... ONE NIGHT ONLY !

FEATURING: How Deep Is Your Love • Massachusetts • To Love Somebody Stayin' Alive • I Started A Joke • How Can You Mend A Broken Heart • Words Night Fever • Nights On Broadway • Tragedy • Emotions • First of May You Should Be Dancing • Run To Me • Don't Throw It All Away (Our Love) I've Gotta Get A Message To You • Jive Talkin' • Islands In The Stream New York Mining Disaster 1941 • More Than A Woman... and many more !

ROBIN GIBB LIVE PERFORMING THE BEE GEES GREATEST HITS

LIVE IN MANILA
November 25
Saturday • 8PM
Araneta Coliseum

Available at SM TICKETNET
374-2222 • 374-9999
911-5555

MTRCB PG-13

A HONG KONG 2007 OSCAR ENTRY
NOW TOPPING ASIAN BOX OFFICE RECORDS!

ZIYI ZHANG DANIEL WU

the Banquet

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 18

Buddy Ang Sayo!

Vote Na For Your Favorite

Philippine Idol

Text IDOL 483

SMART TATO

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

THE MOST-AWAITED ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

Piolo Pascual

Regine Velasquez

Fans' Day:
SM San Lazaro - Oct.8, 4PM

Premiere Night:
SM Megamall Cinema 9 - Oct.8, 7:30 PM

I never knew what love was...

Till i met you

A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)

Text TILL to 4627

OPENS OCTOBER 11